Montebello Unified School District

Parent Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Montebello Unified School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

The school district will put into operation the following: programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents with Title I, Part A programs. Programs, Activities and Procedures shall be consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

1. Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA. Each to include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

2. The school district will incorporate this District wide Parental Involvement Policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request to the extent practicable in a language parents understand.

4. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

5. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent (1%) of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement in which the expenditure will ensure that not less than 95 percent (95%) of the one percent (1%) reserved goes directly to the schools.

6. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

A. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;

B. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;

C. That parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;
D. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

**PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Montebello Unified School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

   A. The district will provide opportunities for parental input through the District Advisory Committee (DAC) which meets regularly throughout the year. The DAC consists of one parent representative from every school in the district.

   B. The DAC chairperson may appoint a subcommittee to review, give input, and revise the District Parental Involvement Policy including but not limited to format, language and layout of the document. The final recommendations will be made by the entire DAC.

   C. The district will provide information to parents through newsletters and the district website as well as any other available electronic methods of communication throughout the school year encouraging and inviting parents to get involved and stay involved.

2. The Montebello Unified School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

   A. The district will provide opportunities to review and revise effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy through the regular DAC meetings.

   B. Each school will provide parents of students participating in Title I Schools with a copy of the school’s Parent Involvement Plan and the District Parental Involvement Policy at the beginning of the school year. Methods of dissemination may include any of the following: handouts at Back to School Night, Quarterly Meetings, PTA and PTSA Meetings, District website, newsletter, student folders, Student Handbook or separate mailings.

3. The Montebello Unified School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

   A. Each school will receive a Parent Rights and Responsibilities handbook at the beginning of the school year as a resource. This handbook will include, but is not limited to: No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Section 1118, Parent Involvement requirements, District Parental Involvement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and Technical Support Handouts.

   B. Newsletters to parents will contain information from the District office encouraging parent input and explaining, how parent input will improve the academic quality of schools funded under, Title I at the beginning of the school year.

   C. Ensure, to the extent possible, that information schools send home to parents is in a language and format parents can understand.
D. Provide new teachers with an overview of the district and school parent involvement programs at the New Teacher Institute at the beginning of the school year.

E. Ensure that each school has developed jointly with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

4. The Montebello Unified School District will coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies in Title I, Part A under the following other programs: Head Start, Kindergarten and Transitional Kindergarten:

A. Inviting prospective students and parents to an orientation Back to School Night in the fall and Open House Program at the school site in the spring.

5. The Montebello Unified School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this District Parental Involvement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent involvement, and to revise, if necessary and with the involvement of parents, its parent involvement policies.

A. The district will provide schools with information to be shared with parents on, “Parents’ Rights to Know”, Title I District Parental Involvement Policy, the School Parent Involvement Policy, and the school compacts.

B. The evaluation instrument will be reviewed and revised as needed by the DAC.

C. The effectiveness of the District Parental Involvement Policy may be evaluated annually as part of the planning process but may be revised at any time throughout the year as needed.

D. From time to time parents will be encouraged to complete a survey evaluating the effectiveness of the District Parental Involvement Policy.

E. The School Site Council or Principal at the school site may provide input on the evaluation for the District Parental Involvement Policy.

CAPACITY BUILDING

1. The Montebello Unified School District will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

• The State’s Academic Content Standards,
• The State’s Student Academic Achievement Standards,
• The State and Local Academic including alternate assessments,
• The requirements of Part A
• How to monitor their child’s progress
• How to work with educators:

  i. Publishing and distributing: The District Parental Involvement Policy will be available in the district website; a summary is included on the Parent Rights and Responsibilities Handbook distributed every spring by the school sites.

  ii. Publish the district NCLB Report Card

  iii. The Parent Involvement on the District Web Site containing parent information and links to quality web sites.

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

  i. Providing resources and assistance for school staff on how to communicate and work with parents at the beginning of the school year.

  ii. Sharing Best Practices on effective parent involvement with school administrators at district administrator meetings.

  iii. Using “Teleparent” calling system will keep parents informed of meetings and events at school.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and other programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

  i. Kindergarten orientation programs at each school

  ii. Back-to-School Night programs

  iii. Open House
iv. The Parent Involvement page on the District Web Site containing parent information and links to quality web sites.

v. Parent district will forward to schools information from various agencies that provide parent education programs.

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, are sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

   i. The district will employ internet translation tools when necessary.

ii. “Teleparent” calling system

iii. School Loop (teacher, parent and student electronic communication tool)