

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

McMICHAEL PROMISE ACADEMY

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

2015-2016

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Each school in its School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must establish the school's expectations for parental involvement. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]*

The _____ McMichael School _____ agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- 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, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its School District of Philadelphia plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- 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, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the School District of Philadelphia's 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.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- 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.

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

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

[NOTE: The School- wide Parental Involvement Policy must include a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.] Regardless of the format the school chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.]

1. The McMichael School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

McMichael invited parents to a meeting on Sept. 23rd to give feedback on this policy. Parents were notified via a flyer sent home with all students. Parents are also invited to sit with the principal during monthly parent meetings. Parents are always welcome make suggestions and provide input to the school.

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

Parents are invited to give feedback and input on the school’s Comprehensive Plan through regularly monthly meetings with the principal and through a special meeting held in the Spring for parents to learn more about the Comprehensive Plan and Budget for the upcoming school year. Parent feedback is valued by the school’s leadership.

3. The School District of Philadelphia 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:

- In collaboration with the Grants Compliance Monitor, School-Community Liaisons, Philadelphia Home and School Council (PHSC), Title I Parent Advisory Committee, The Philadelphia Right to Know Educational Task Force, PARENT POWER, and other parent groups, provide workshops to schools on parent engagement.
 - Provide professional development by parents/caregivers for new and existing principals and other administrators on how to develop promising partnerships with parents/caregivers.
 - Train new and existing staff with parental engagement duties (e.g., School Improvement Support Liaisons, School-Community Liaisons, School Community Coordinators, and Bilingual Counselor Assistants) to assist school sites in implementing parental engagement.
 - Make available the staff of the Office of Educational Equity, Office of Specialized Instructional Support, and Office of Family and Community Engagement staff for technical assistance.
 - The Grants Compliance/Title I Office will provide technical assistance to schools and parent organizations, such as the Title I Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Home and School Associations, The Philadelphia Right to Education Task Force, PARENT POWER, and other organized parent groups.
 - Provide coordination of professional development efforts through the Office of Leadership and Development.
 - Provide workshops to parents on supporting student achievement and parent engagement.
4. The McMichael School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start: by:

Pre-School parents are invited to all school events and receive the same flyers and communication as all other parents. There are monthly Head Start meetings and the school leadership meets with parents about Early Educational Strategies. We host meetings with pre-Kindergarten students in the spring to introduce them to the Kindergarten staff and to address any questions families may have.

5. The McMichael School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A programs. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental 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 school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

McMichael will seek feedback at the end of parent workshops to ensure parents are getting the most out of the workshops offered. The Teacher Leader will develop the mini-survey to be used at each workshop. Additionally, the Principal will seek feedback at monthly meetings to evaluate parental involvement strategies. The School will also seek feedback at the Annual meeting for developing the Parent Involvement Policy and Parent-School Compact.

6. The McMichael School will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership

among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The name of the school will, with the assistance of the School District, provide assistance to parents, 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 assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I-Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators.

McMichael reviews Academic Content Standards, Academic Achievement Standards, and Assessment information during the Back to School Night. This was held on Sept. 17th. The Annual Title I meeting reviews the Title I requirements. Parents can learn about monitoring their child's progress and working with educators through progress reports, parent-teacher conferences, and at parent workshops geared to teaching parents about FamilyNet.

B. The McMichael School will, with the assistance of the School District, 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, by:

McMichael hosts an annual curriculum night to explain StoryTown, Everyday Math, and Prentice Hall Math. Additionally, parents are invited to a workshop about FamilyNet to teach them about how to use the software to monitor their child's progress. The first parent workshop will be held on Nov. 5th.

C. The McMichael School will, with the assistance of the School District, 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:

McMichael School hosts weekly staff meetings. One week will be focused on working with parents, parent communication/customer service, and when/how to reach out to parents. Additionally, staff will be trained on effective parent-teacher conferences.

D. The McMichael School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Pre-School parents are invited to all school events and receive the same flyers and communication as all other parents. There are monthly Head Start meetings and the school leadership meets with parents about Early Educational Strategies. We host

meetings with pre-Kindergarten students in the spring to introduce them to the Kindergarten staff and to address any questions families may have.

McMichael hosts the Parent Resource Center for West Philadelphia region. Parents can visit to get literature about educational opportunities throughout the region.

- E. The McMichael School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is 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:
- Parents will see academic material in the Monthly Newsletters
 - Calendars will be sent out once a month with information concerning the school
 - School Improvement Support Liaison is available to make home visits and phone calls, as needed, to ensure parents understand about programs, meetings, and events occurring at the school.
 - Flyers will go home to inform parents of meetings, workshops, and activities in clear, parent-friendly language.
 - Translations are available, as needed, through the District's translation office.

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School's Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This _____ McMichael _____ School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents as evidenced by ___the sign-in and agenda from the parent meeting on Oct. 10th____.

The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before October 31, 2014.

(Signature of Principal)

(Date)