

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

RICHARD WRIGHT SCHOOL

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

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 RICHARD WRIGHT ELEMENTARY 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 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 RICHARD WRIGHT 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:
 - Back to School Night Wednesday September 30th , 2015- As part of Back to School Night parents were informed of their rights according to Title 1 Law. Parents were given the opportunity to ask questions and receive information about services for students under the “No Child Left Behind” legislation. Parents were invited to a Parent Meeting on Oct. 22nd, 2015 to discuss the Parent Compact and this Parent Involvement Policy.
 - Flyers announcing special meetings
 - School Messenger- automated phone dialer service to alert parents of programs/ meetings/ significant dates, and updates at the school
 - Regular Communications sent home via students
 - Parent resource/ information center located at the entrance to the school.

- Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in school-wide initiatives as well as give input for improvements, through the Parent Involvement policy and School Improvement Plan.

2. The RICHARD WRIGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in school-wide initiatives as well as give input for improvements, through the Parent Involvement policy and School Improvement Plan. WRIGHT Elementary will invite parents to a meeting in the Spring to review the School Budget and the School Improvement Plan. Additional feedback will be gathered through:
 - Monthly Home & School/ Principal & Parent Meetings.
 - Parent Workshop detailing Title 1 policies
 - Open House
 - Monthly School Calendars
 - Assemblies

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.

3. The RICHARD WRIGHT SCHOOL will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs], by:

- Supporting Head Start Programming and transitioning to Kindergarten
- The use of Early Intervention Evaluation to assess kindergarten skill readiness

- SAP (Student Assistance Procedure) to assist families with transitions
- RTII (Response to Intervention and Instruction) to support students
- Provide parents with the opportunity to visit classrooms and review programs
- Promoting, and encouraging Parent Participation in the “Getting ready for Kindergarten” workshop for parents of 2, 3 & 4 year olds.

The RICHARD WRIGHT 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 district 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.

The evaluation process will be conducted by the Home and School Association at its’ monthly meetings, as well as at monthly Parent meetings with the Principal. They will discuss any issues and or questions that parents/ guardians may have. Near the end of each school year parents will be notified and encouraged to complete the School District of Philadelphia’s Parent survey. The surveys are submitted directly to the District, and results are published on the Performance results each year.

5. The RICHARD WRIGHT 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 Richard Wright 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.

Parents are encouraged to follow the progress of their children on Parent Portal on the School District of Philadelphia’s Website. Parent portal will provide information such as grades, standardized test scores, attendance, and general demographic information. Additionally, during the Back to School Night/Annual Title I meeting, academic standards, achievement standards, assessments, and Title I requirements are reviewed. This occurred on Sept. 30, 2015. Parents can also monitor their child’s progress through report cards, interim reports, and parent-teacher conferences. Home and School Meetings and Parent conferences will allow for time and space to discuss how to work with educators, if parents have any questions.
 - B. The Richard Wright 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:

Holding monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the school, with topics that are in line with community identified needs, such as registering parents for parent portal to assist in high school application process, financial literacy, and shadowing their children with core curriculum material.

C. The Richard Wright 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:

- Principal will register and participate in Professional Development relating to building parent relationships in the school. Information regarding parental involvement and building relationships professional development will be shared with staff. Staff will engage in training with the Network Parent support liaison during half days, and during grade group meetings.
- Parents are encouraged to visit teachers, and communicate with teachers in regards to supporting their child's education.
- Monthly morning parent meetings as well as evening Home & School Meetings will be scheduled to encourage parent input and voice.
- The budget involves parents and teachers in the process

D. The Richard Wright 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:

-Inviting parents/ guardians to school activities/ assemblies, and integrate the participation of Headstart students in said programs.

Making all parent meetings both in the Elementary School as well as in Headstart known, on monthly school calendars. Administration will attend and participate in Headstart parent meetings, and acquire and distribute printed materials as resources to help parents support their children in transitioning their children from Headstart to Elementary School/ Kindergarten.

E. The Richard Wright 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:

All school communications are sent in clear, parent-friendly language. Monthly calendars are sent home so parents can plan to attend school events. When and if ever necessary the school will request material translated into needed languages. When such materials are unavailable the school will contact The School District of Philadelphia's Office of Translation and Interpretation Services.

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;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, 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;
- 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.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This Richard Wright 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 held on Oct. 22nd, 2015.

The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before October 31st, 2015.

(Signature of Principal)

(Date)