

# **Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy**

## **Serena CUSD #2**

### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

**Serena CUSD #2** 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, including the process of school review and improvement under section 1116, 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 districtwide parental involvement policy into its LEA 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 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.
- 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 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 of the ESEA as the parents may request.

- 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 DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. **Serena CUSD #2** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:

*An annual Title 1 Open House/Parent Meeting will be held in September each year to review the Title 1 Parental Involvement Policy and Title 1 School Parent Compact. These materials will be disseminated to parents and written and oral input from parents will be solicited.*

2. **Serena CUSD #2** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

*Parents are asked to participate in the annual review of the school improvement plan. Feedback is solicited at parent/teacher conferences. Parents are also welcome to attend the monthly school board meetings and comment during the public comment portion of the meeting. Additional RTI Committee meetings will be held throughout the year to review and update the intervention policies.*

3. **Serena CUSD #2** 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:

*Intervention eligibility letters will be sent to parents of students qualifying for Title services. Quarterly progress updates will be sent home. SeeSaw online student portfolio program will be utilized for communication regarding assessments and interventions utilized in the Title program. An invitation will be sent to parents inviting them to attend the annual Title 1 Open House/Parent Meeting that will be held in September of each year and will review and inform parents of the following:*

*\*Parents Right to Know Letter*

*\*The school participates in Title 1*

*\*The requirements of Title 1*

*\*Title 1 Curriculum*

*\*Parents right to be involved as outlined in Table B of Title 1, Part A Parental Involvement Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section 1118*

*\*The Title 1 School Parent Compact*

*\*Title 1 teachers' qualifications*

*\*The current Illinois Report Card and its review*

*\*School Improvement Plan*

4. **Serena CUSD #2** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool, and other programs by:

*The school provides a facility for the La Salle County Preschool team to conduct assessments for the 3, 4, and 5 year olds in the school district. The school provides speech services for preschool age children.*

5. **Serena CUSD #2** 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 schools. 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.

*An annual Title 1 Open House/Parent Meeting will be held in September each year to review the Title 1 Parental Involvement Policy and Title 1 School Parent Compact. These materials will be disseminated to parents and written and oral input from parents will be solicited. The RTI Committee will meet throughout the year to review and update when needed the Intervention Manual. Parents will complete an anonymous Title Knowledge Survey. The meeting will include review and inform parents of the following:*

*\*Parents Right to Know Letter*

- \*The school participates in Title 1*
- \*The requirements of Title 1*
- \*Title 1 Curriculum*
- \*Parents right to be involved as outlined in Table B of Title 1, Part A Parental Involvement Non-Regulatory Guidance, Section 1118*
- \*The Title 1 School Parent Compact*
- \*Title 1 teachers' qualifications*
- \*The current Illinois Report Card and its review*
- \*School Improvement Plan*

6. **Serena CUSD #2** will build school and parent 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 assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

*School and classroom newsletters, Title 1 School Parent Compact, highlights of the standards, lists of web sites, Annual Title 1 Open House/Parent Meeting, ongoing Title 1 parent meetings and Family Reading Night*

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, by:

*Annual Title 1 Open House/Parent Meeting, ongoing Title 1 parent meetings, Family Reading Night, school and classroom newsletters, lists of websites, informational trifolds, and supplementary materials/resources.*

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:

*Teachers will be given the opportunity to attend workshops and conferences on ways to communicate with parents on effective ways to help their child at home. Staff will receive ongoing professional development during School Improvement and Institute days.*

- D. The school district 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, public preschool, and other programs. The school will also conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

*The school provides a facility for the La Salle County Preschool team to conduct assessments for the 3, 4, and 5 year olds in the school district. The school provides speech services for preschool age children.*

- E. The school district 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:

*Informational flyers and invitations will be sent to parents notifying them of Title I parent meetings and Family Reading Night. Title I Eligibility letters will be sent to students qualifying for Title support. Quarterly progress reports will be sent to parents. Any information given to the parent will be in a language the parent can understand.*

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

- 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 and child care costs, 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, arrange meetings with parents who are unable to attend 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 districtwide 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.

#### **PART IV. ADOPTION**

This Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by parent participation in the Annual Title 1 Open House/Parent meeting and RTI Committee meetings.

This policy was adopted by **Serena CUSD #2 School District** through a first reading on May 26, 2016 and second reading/adoption on June 30, 2016 and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2016.

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*(Signature of Authorized Official)*

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*(Date)*