

CALUMET CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT #155

Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Calumet City School District #155 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

NOTE: The Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy must include a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.] This is a “sample template” as there is no required format for these descriptions. However, regardless of the format the district chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.

1. The **Calumet City School District #155** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:
 - Recruit parents for PTA, committees, volunteerism
 - Formal letters of invitation will be sent out
 - Conduct a needs assessment survey of parents to determine needs and concerns
 - Analyze results of ISC#4 audit (parental interviews)
 - Hold regular meetings throughout the year to discuss needs and evaluate program
2. The **Calumet City School District #155** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Parent conferences held twice a year (fall and winter) at each building (See calendar for dates)
 - Recruit and retain parents to serve on School Improvement Planning committees and “Parent and Community” Task forces

- SIPs approved by and presented to Calumet City S.D. #155 Local School Board
3. The **Calumet City School District #155** 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:
- District website
 - Dates of meetings
 - Title I Documents
 - Links to parent resources
4. The **Calumet City School District #155** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
- Early Childhood
 - Title I Schoolwide
 - Special Education program
5. The **Calumet City School District #155** 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.

Appropriate Actions:

- ISC#4 Audit results will be utilized to determine how to get more parents involved in the education of their children
- Surveys compiled and utilized to evaluate the program and its varied components:
 - survey will be distributed at each building by the “Parent and Community” Task Force teams
 - survey will direct parents to review attached policy and ask for specific recommendations
 - survey will be sent to ELL families in a language familiar to them (whenever possible)

- Audit results and surveys will be analyzed. Results will be distributed at “Principal’s Prime Time” meetings
- Parents will be given results of data analysis to give feedback as to how to make improvements to the existing parental involvement policy.

6. The **Calumet City School District #155** 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:

Appropriate Actions:

- The District will provide support for parents to understand these topics in the following ways:
 - The Illinois Learning Standards (ILS) in student language will be available on the district web site as well as in printed form (upon request)
 - Links to the curriculum guides for all content areas and grade levels will be posted on the district web site
 - Links to specific resources related to above topics are available on the district web page
 - A series of parental workshops are held yearly at each building and parents are invited to attend all of them. Topic selection is determined by analysis of data.

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:

- Where appropriate (as determined by parental surveys and ISC#4 audit results), parent information/training meetings will be held to provide information and training

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:

- Working closely with our professional development providers:
Modern Red Schoolhouse (Pre K-5)
AIMS/Turning Points (6,7,8)

D. 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:

Appropriate Actions:

- Notices will be sent home with students
- Notices will be posted on district web site
- Notices will be included in monthly school newsletters
- Notices will be placed on school marquees

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, 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 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

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This policy was adopted by the **Calumet City School District #155** district on August 17, 2006 and will be in effect for the period of One (1) year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 2006.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)