

Rappahannock County Public Schools
Division-Wide Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Rappahannock County Public Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school division 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 division 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 division will incorporate this division-wide 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 division 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 division will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school division submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school division 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.

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- The school division 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 DIVISION WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DIVISION WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Rappahannock County Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its division wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - *Each school will convene an annual meeting to be held on the night of the school's Open House.*
 - *Curriculum information will be made available to all parents at the annual meeting.*
 - *Assessment information will be made available to all parents at the annual meeting.*
 - *Each school will establish a Title I Advisory Council and one member of that Council will serve on the Division Title I Advisory Council.*
 - *Each school Advisory Council will establish a meeting schedule that will be approved by the Council members.*
 - *Meeting agendas and minutes will be available via school websites and parent newsletters.*
2. Rappahannock County Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - *Title I Advisory Council meetings will be open to all parents.*
 - *The school-level Title I Advisory Council will provide a process to allow parents to review available data with school staff and to provide input to assist the school in modifying and updating School Improvement Plans.*
 - *The Title I Advisory Council will provide ongoing communication and monitoring of the progress and goals of the Title I program*

3. Rappahannock County Public Schools 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:
 - *The Title I Advisory Council will work with the Title I reading specialists and building level administration to suggest and plan parental involvement activities.*
 - *Each school will conduct at least one Family Literacy Night program.*
4. Rappahannock County Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:
 - *Rappahannock County Public Schools will work collaboratively with the Rappahannock County Head Start program to provide parents with kindergarten readiness.*
 - *Title I funds will be used to provide leveled reading materials for Rappahannock County Department of Social Services.*
5. Rappahannock County Public Schools 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 division 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 Title I Advisory Committee will conduct a parent survey each May to determine the level of participation and to identify barriers that have prevented participation.*
 - *Parent surveys will be school-based and offered in both English and Spanish.*
 - *Each school's Title I Advisory Council will use the results of the survey to develop a parental involvement goal for the next school year.*
1. Rappahannock County Public Schools will build the schools' and parent's 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:

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A. The school division will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school division 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:

- *Rappahannock County Public Schools will establish and publish a school calendar for parent/teacher conferences.*
- *School and teacher websites will provide schedules, class work, homework, school events, supply lists, and contact information.*
- *The parental involvement policy will be available in the school handbook and on the school website.*
- *Information regarding how to access division curriculum and state standards will be available in the school handbook and on the school website.*
- *Information on how parents can help their children improve performance on Virginia Standards of Learning tests will be provided to parents via school newsletters and school websites.*

B. The school division 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:

- *Family Literacy Night activities will be developed by reading specialists.*
- *Pamphlets will be distributed by each school to parents of children registering for kindergarten.*
- *Literacy web links will be available on the school website.*

C. The school division 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 with parents and community outreach will be a component of the division's beginning teacher mentoring program.*

- *The Title I Coordinator will offer parental involvement topics for “principal’s choice” workshops and faculty meetings.*

D. The school division will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start 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:

- *Each school will develop Family Literacy Night Activities.*
- *Notices of parental involvement activities will be available in Spanish as needed.*

E. The school division 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:

- *Rappahannock County Public Schools will establish and publish a school calendar for parent/teacher conferences.*
- *School and teacher websites will provide schedules, class work, homework, school events, supply lists, and contact information.*
- *The school’s parental involvement policy will be available in the school handbook and on the school website.*
- *Information regarding how to access division curriculum and state standards will be available in the school handbook and on the school website.*
- *Information on how parents can help their children improve performance on Virginia Standards of Learning tests will be provided to parents via school newsletters and school websites.*

- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

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