District Policy

2415.04- TITLE I - DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY (M)

Section: Program
Board Adopted: December 17, 2008

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Part I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

A. 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.

B. Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental engagement 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.

C. The school district will incorporate this District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy into its school district's plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.

D. 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, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

E. If the school district'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 New Jersey Department of Education.

F. In the event the school district is required to reserve and spend at least one percent of the district's Title I, Part A allocation, the school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how these funds will be spent and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

G. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects Title I schools in the district 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:

1. That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

2. That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

3. 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;

4. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

H. In the event the State of New Jersey or the New Jersey Department of Education has a Parental Information and Resource Center, the school district will inform parents and parental organizations of its purpose and existence.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS
Below is a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components outlined below (Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA):

A. Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental engagement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
1. Title I Parent Advisory Committee
2. Parent Teacher Conferences
3. PTO meetings
4. Title I Annual Parent Meeting
5. Parent Surveys
6. General parent meeting

The district parent engagement policy is distributed to parents and students:

1. During the Annual Title I meeting which is held annually at the beginning of each school year. Parents can also get copies of the PCSST Parent Involvement Policy from the main offices located in each campus.

2. Additionally the PCSST parent involvement policy and school-parent compact will be posted on the school's website under the Title I Documents section as well as on the Student Information System (SIS).

B. Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

1. Parents are asked to serve on committees as needed: 1-Title I Parent Advisory Committee and the Title I Schoolwide Planning Stakeholders Committee.
2. Title I Parent Surveys are sent annually in the fall and in spring.
3. PTO Meetings
4. Parent/Teacher Conference.

5. Participation of parents in the School Discipline Committee and the Parent-Student Handbook Committee

C. Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental engagement activities to improve pupil academic achievement and school performance:

1. Provide s description and explanation of the curriculum, forms of academic assessment used to measure student growth and progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet in NJSLA.
2. Title I Schoolwide Stakeholders Planning Committee parent representatives
3. Parent Surveys
4. PTO

D. Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies in Part A with parental engagement strategies under the following other programs such as:

1. English Language Learner Parent Advisory Committee
2. ELL Family Workshop Night
3. Special Education Family Workshop Night
4. Parent Literacy Nights
5. Hispanic Night (Noche-Hispana)
6. Parent Breakfasts
7. Parent Literacy Nights

7. Other School Activities included in the Activities Calendar posted on school's website)

With these activities, our school aims to celebrate the multi-culturism and the diversity of students who is an English second learner and their parents. During these activities, information about the school and how parents can utilize school resources to enhance their students' education will be given. Based on feedback and input received from parents during various parent meetings, PCSST will provide bilingual interpreters for parents who have language barriers. Such bilingual interpreters will interpret during parent-teacher conferences, back –to- school nights, ESL Parent

Nights, Literacy Nights and Title I annual parent meetings. In addition, documents including parent notification letters, school reach, and website postings will also be translated in the languages spoken by our parents.

E. Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parental Engagement 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 evaluation will consist of:

1. Parent Surveys
2. Title I Parent Advisory Committee Meetings
3. PTO meetings
4. Parent Teacher Conferences
5. Collaboration between Title I, ELL, Special Education etc..

6. ELL Parent Advisory Committee

Paterson Charter School for Science and Technology will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parental Engagement Policy and activities to:

1. Design strategies for more effective parental involvement,
2. Revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies
3. Plan next school year's parent involvement activities

Goals and Objectives

The school district will build the school's and parent's capacity for strong parental engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve pupil 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 below:

1. New Jersey's academic content standards;
2. New Jersey's pupil academic achievement standards;
3. The New Jersey and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
4. The requirements of Part A;
5. How to monitor their child's progress; and
6. How to work with educators.

Workshops will be offered to parents to provide them as appropriate in understanding standards, state and local assessments and their child's scores, the requirements of Part A, and monitoring their child's progress and working with educators. In addition, any other resources that will help them become familiar with topics listed above will be provided.

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 engagement, by:

1. Provide parents with student-parent handbook.
2. Provide parents with NJ DOE websites specific to academic standards, assessments, ESSA, and Title I Part A.
3. Literature will be sent home as a resource to parents to help them provide assistance to their children.
4. Parent workshops will be offered on literacy training and technology skills.
5. Provide parents with training on distance learning strategies and virtual communication platforms including zoom, google classroom, class dojo etc.
6. Information will about conferences and workshops that pertain to parents will be shared with parents via school's website and PTO.

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:

1. An annual workshop will be given by Paterson Community members to the staff providing strategies for parent/school partnerships and effective parent communication.
2. Teacher-Parent Communication Logs
3. Utilize parent Volunteers

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:

1. Mailing
2. Phone calls & text messages
3. School Reach
4. Emails
5. Postings on District Website and Student Information System(SIS)
6. Placing it on the informational parent table at the mains offices in each school
7. Translations of the meeting notices will be provided to the extent possible.
8. Have an interpreter or provide translations of PowerPoint presentations during Title I annual parent meetings or during other types of parent meetings.
9. Schedule parent meetings at different times of the day vs only in the evenings DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY ACTIVITIES

The additional information outlined below lists and describes discretionary activities the school district, in consultation with its parents, may undertake to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement:

1. Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, Principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;

2. 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;

3. 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;

4. Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents;

5. 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;

6. Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental engagement; parents should receive detailed information or description about a meeting or training when they are invited for meetings or a trainings

7. Establishing a Title I district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;

8. Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and

9. Providing other reasonable support for parental engagement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

ADOPTION

This District-Wide Parental Engagement Policy has been developed jointly, and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, evidenced by documentation of sign- in sheets from meetings. This Policy will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents understand, at the beginning of each school year or when the child is determined eligible and begins participating in Title I, Part A programs.
United States Department of Education Non-Regulatory Guidance – Appendix D- District-Wide Parental Engagement Policy

Adopted: 17 December 2008
Revised: 23 February 2011
Revised: 28 November 2012
Revised: 30 October 2013
Revised: 3 September 2014
Revised: 2 September 2015
Revised: 29 September 2016
Revised: 27 September, 2017
Revised: 04 October, 2018
Revised: 16 October, 2019
Revised: October 21, 2020
Revised: October 20,2021
Revised: October 19,2022
Revised: October, 18, 2023