

CATASAUQUA AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PART I – GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Catasauqua Area School District 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-student-compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district-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 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 Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement are spent and ensures that it 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.*

PART II – DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Catasauqua Area School District will take the following action to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- A letter is sent to parents asking for their participation in developing a district-wide parental involvement plan.

2. The Catasauqua Area School District will take the following action to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- Parents are involved in developing and reviewing the district strategic plan.

3. The Catasauqua Area School District 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 district will make available literacy training to instruct parents how to work with their child.
- The district will send home information concerning conferences or workshops parents may attend.
- The district provides a “Community Education Program” which offers parent night classes pertaining to how to prepare your child to succeed and familiarize parents about the standards and the PSSA test.

4. The Catasauqua Area School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Project Connect and Community Pre-school programs by:

- Offering parent workshops and in-services on topics dealing with special needs children, speech and language development for preschool children, and behavior management. Our IU Project Connect staff provides these free of charge.

5. The Catasauqua Area School District 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.

- Parents of Title I children are sent a “Parent Needs Assessment Survey” to complete each spring. The parents’ responses and feedback are used to plan for the following school year.

6. The Catasauqua Area School District 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:

- 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 in understanding topics such as:
- the State’s academic content standards
 - the State’s student academic achievement standards
 - the State and local academic assessments

- the requirements of Title I, Part A
- how to monitor their child's progress
- how to work with educators

Parents may learn about the above-mentioned topics at parent-teacher conferences, Parent Awareness Training Conferences, school board meetings, and district newsletters.

- 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 by:
- Offering parent workshops on literacy training
 - Offering parent classes through our "Community Education Program"
 - Having parents attend Parent Awareness Conferences offered by the State and the PA Federal Programs Coordinators
 - Sending home information about how parents can help their child
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, administration, 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:
- Having parents participate on district-wide school committees
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the Intermediate Unit and public preschool programs to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:
- Sending home information of any parent workshops or programs offered by the Intermediate Unit or community preschools.
- 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 in a language the parents can understand.
- Parents of participating children will be sent home notices of all programs, meetings, and other activities in a language that the parent can understand.

PART III – DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS


The following discretionary activities may be used to build the parents' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's academic achievement:

- Provide child care for school-related meetings and trainings.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- Arrange school meetings at a variety of times to accommodate parents
- Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on matters related to parental involvement
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement

PART IV – ADOPTION

This District-wide 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 the Federal Programs Coordinator.

This policy was adopted by the Catasauqua Area School District on September 6, 2005. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children in the month of September.


Robert J. Spengler / Superintendent

9-1-2021
Date

