

Parent Involvement Policy §1112(b)(1)(I) and §1118(a)

Each local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall develop jointly with, agree on with, and **distribute to**, parents of participating children a written parent involvement policy. The policy shall be incorporated into the agency's plan developed under section 1112.

District Wide Parental Involvement Policy

Ritchie County Schools

LEA Title I Parent Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Ritchie County Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The county 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). [NOTE: Additional information about ESEA and No Child Left Behind may be accessed at www.ed.gov.] 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 compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The county 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 can 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 parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than ninety-five percent of the one percent 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 plan 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 RITCHIE COUNTY SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Ritchie County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - At the first Parent Advisory Council meeting of the year the Parent Involvement Policy will be discussed with parents. At following meetings throughout the year suggestions and concerns from parents will be addressed.
2. Ritchie County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA.
 - During Parent Advisory Council meetings parents will be informed of current academic activities within the buildings. Parents then can review, critique and make suggestions to the Title I program.
3. Ritchie County 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 Parent Advisory Council will assist and plan effective parental activities throughout the school year.
 - The Parent Survey also requests input from parents on pertinent parental activities.
4. Ritchie County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Even Start, public preschool, Head Start, private preschools
5. Ritchie County 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 district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent 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.
 - A Parental Survey will be administered annually to all parents in Title I Schoolwide buildings. The schoolwide team will use results from the survey to determine effective parental programs.
6. Ritchie County Schools 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:
 - 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 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.

7. Ritchie County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their child's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology to foster parental involvement.
8. Ritchie County Schools 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.
9. Ritchie County Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, home instruction programs for preschool youngsters, Parent Educator Resource Center (PERC), Family Resource Network (FRN) public preschool and other centers that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
10. Ritchie County Schools 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.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Ritchie County Schools recognizes that a child's education is the responsibility shared by the school and the family and agrees that to effectively educate all students, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

Ritchie County Schools defines parent and family involvement as an on-going process that assists parents and families in meeting their basic obligation as their child's first educator; promotes clear two-way dialogue between home and school; and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.

To this end, Ritchie County Schools instituted a Title I Parent Advisory Council that meets at least three times yearly. This council consists of parents from every Title I school. The purpose of this council is to assist the Title I staff in the development, implementation, and evaluation of parental programs that will meet the needs of Title I parents.

KC

Ritchie County Parent Involvement Policy

The Ritchie County Board of Education believes that parent involvement at the early childhood, middle, and adolescent level is absolutely fundamental to a healthy system of public education. Strong partnerships between homes and schools are needed if quality education is to be provided to all children. Parents and teachers, by promoting a sense of cooperative responsibility, can reinforce each other's efforts. As their children's first and most enduring teachers, parents can complement their children's school learning and behavior by serving as collaborators in the educational process. The resulting home-school partnerships can have positive effects on parent, teacher, and student attitudes, classroom instruction, and on student achievement.

The goal of this policy is to enhance cooperative efforts between homes and schools in the

county that will encourage parents, through a variety of means, to become involved in the education of their children.

The term “parents” as used in this policy are those individuals with legal or quasi-legal custodianship (i.e. biological, adoptive, foster parents). The term also expands to include family members (i.e. aunts, brothers, grandparents, etc.) and significant others whose involvement may be important to the child.

One percent of Title I, Part A, funds received by the Ritchie County Board of Education, in the amount of \$500,000 or more, must be reserved for parental involvement, and at least 95 percent of the reserved amount must be distributed to the schools. The schools may voluntarily return some their funds to the Ritchie County Board of Education to conduct county wide parental involvement activities, if they wish. An evaluation process is to be conducted annually to determine weaknesses, strengths, and necessary areas of improvement.

Research shows that when schools and families work together to support learning, children tend to succeed in school and in life. In fact, the most accurate predictor of a student’s achievement in school is the extent to which a child’s family creates a home environment that encourages learning, expresses high (but not unrealistic) expectations, and becomes involved in their child’s education at school and in the community. The Title I staff of Ritchie County Schools recognizes the shared responsibilities of family, school and community for children’s learning and development. Therefore it is important that schools and families develop partnerships that help all children to succeed in school and in life.

Ritchie County Board of Education

Joyce Epstein of John Hopkins University defines six types of parent involvement:

Epstein's Framework of Six Types of Involvement

1. PARENTING: Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.

- Parent education and other courses or training for parents (e.g., GED, college credit, family literacy).
- Family support programs to assist families with health, nutrition, and other services.
- Home visits at transition points to pre-school, elementary, middle, and high school.

2. COMMUNICATING: Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress.

- Conferences with every parent at least once a year.
- Language translators to assist families as needed.

- Regular schedule of useful notices, memos, phone calls, newsletters, and other communications.

3. VOLUNTEERING: Recruit and organize parent help and support.

- School and classroom volunteer program to help teachers, administrators, students, and other parents.
- Parent room or family center for volunteer work, meetings, and resources for families.
- Annual postcard survey to identify all available talents, times, and locations of volunteers.

4. LEARNING AT HOME: Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.

- Information for families on skills required for students in all subjects at each grade.
- Information on homework policies and how to monitor and discuss schoolwork at home.
- Family participation in setting student goals each year and in planning for college or work.

5. DECISION MAKING: Include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives.

- Active PTA/PTO or other parent organizations, advisory councils, or committees for parent leadership and participation.
- Independent advocacy groups to lobby and work for school reform and improvements.
- Networks to link all families with parent representatives.

6. COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY: Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

- Information for students and families on community health, cultural, recreational, social support, and other programs/services.
- Information on community activities that link to learning skills and talents, including summer programs for students.

Ritchie County Schools, in cooperation with state and local agencies, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, will provide training to administrators, teachers, and parents in methods and procedures required to develop and implement home-school partnerships. We are committed to developing the six components of Epstein's Framework in an effort to guarantee the success of all students.

Activities and Strategies for Ritchie County Schools

1. PARENTING

Parenting workshops (2 at county level and 2 per school)
Home visits
Parenting sessions during screenings
Channing Bete publications
Recipes for Success

2. COMMUNICATING

Report Cards
Calendar
Assessment notifications, preparation suggestions and results
District Report Cards
Phone Calls

3. VOLUNTEERING

Parent Partner Coordinator
Parent Partner
Various student performance activities

4. LEARNING AT HOME

Summer Mailings
Parent & Child Magazine
DIBELS notifications

5. DECISION MAKING

5 Year Strategic Planning Committee
Bi-Annual County Parent Meeting with primary and intermediate teachers
County Parent Satisfaction Survey (fall and spring)
Pre-School Collaboration Meetings

6. COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY

Pre-School Initiative
APPLE Program
Public Library Collaboration
Energy Express

Reference: WV Code 18-2-28
WV Board of Education Policy 2200

Approved: June 14, 2004

Revised: April 7, 2006
April 20, 2007

