

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Parent/Guardian Involvement and School Partnership

The Board strongly encourages and welcomes the involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) in all of the District's educational programs. It is recognized a parent's involvement in a child's education is a critical component in that child's academic success. The Board further appreciates and respects parents/guardians as the "first teachers" of their children, and believes the interest and involvement of parents in the education of their children should not diminish once children enter the schools of the District. An effective school/parent partnership focused on students' educational success must exist, which involves all district staff and parents/guardians, for the District's educational goals to be achieved.

Accordingly, the Board directs, by the adoption of this policy, that the administration shall design a program/plan that will encourage and foster a partnership between families and the schools for increased parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in children's education. The plan may include, but not be limited to:

- Establishment of welcoming school environments;
- Communication to and from parents and school;
- Parents as volunteers;
- Supportive home learning environments;
- Schools as a parent resource centers;
- Parents as decision makers.

Included in these areas may be surveying parents as to their ideas and needs related to parent involvement, communicating in languages understood by district families, the development and review of instructional materials and district procedures, review of individual school environments, input on the ways that the District may better communicate with parent(s)/guardian(s) about information and resources they may need (e.g., current laws, regulations, instructional programs, and community resources), educational programs to assist parent(s)/guardian(s) in their support of academic achievement, increasing parents opportunities to be involved in building decisions, as well as district staff development looking at staff attitudes and effective parent involvement programs.

The Superintendent shall provide a copy of the Parental Involvement policy to all parents.

Title I Programs

In accordance with the requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act, the Board of Education encourages parent(s)/guardian(s) participation in Title I programs. Parent(s)/guardian(s) shall be offered substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children by this policy.

The Board of Education directs that the following actions be implemented by the administration to insure compliance with federal law and to invite parents to become involved in the education of their children.

The involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) in the planning, implementation, evaluation, and improvement of Title I programs/services is encouraged through participation on building School Improvement Committees. The district/school involves parents/guardians by:

- Invitations to parent(s)/guardian(s) to attend at least one annual meeting for Title I parents, with additional meeting opportunities being available as needed, designed to provide Title I information and program services, and to solicit parent(s)/guardian(s) suggestions on program development, planning, evaluation and operation;
- Assistance to parent(s)/guardian(s) in understanding Title I, including the providing of information in a language understandable to the parent(s)/ guardian(s);
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) notification of Title I student selection and criteria for selection;
- Information regarding child's achievement and progress;
- A provision for input by Title I staff at regularly scheduled parent/guardian-teacher conferences and any additional communication as requested by the Title I staff or parent(s)/guardian(s);
- Opportunities to enhance parent(s)/guardian(s) capacity to work with children in the home on school learning;
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement strategies;
- Ongoing communication between school and parent(s)/guardian(s); and
- Other appropriate activities (i.e. Family Nights, parent(s)/guardian(s) sessions, activities, etc.).

The Board of Education adopts the following policy statement regarding the development of a plan for parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in the development of a Title I plan, and directs the administration to:

- Involve parent(s)/guardian(s) in the development of the plan;
- Develop a plan that provides for the involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) in the Title I activities of the school;
- Provide the necessary technical, research, staff and administrative support to schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- Integrate and coordinate the plans/policies for parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in Title I programs with parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in other programs such as Head Start and the Great Start Readiness Program;
- Review and evaluate the plan on an annual basis;
- Assure that the policy/plan contains a compact that outlines how parent(s)/guardian(s), the school staff and students will share the responsibility of improved student achievement; and distribute the compact to parent(s)/guardian(s) of participating children.

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Involvement

Parent(s)/guardian(s) of LEP students will be provided notice regarding their child's placement in and information about the District's LEP program. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified about their rights regarding program content and participation including the right to choose among programs if alternatives are available. The notice must also include an explanation of the value of the program in terms of academic development, mastery of English, and the achievement of promotion and graduation standards. The notice will also include an explanation of the right to remove the child from an LEP program and to place the child in the regular program. The notice must be in a format that families can comprehend and in a language that is understood by the family.

Legal Reference:

Section 380.10 – Revised School Code
Section 380.1137 – Revised School Code
Section 380.1294 – Revised School Code

Ishpeming Public School District