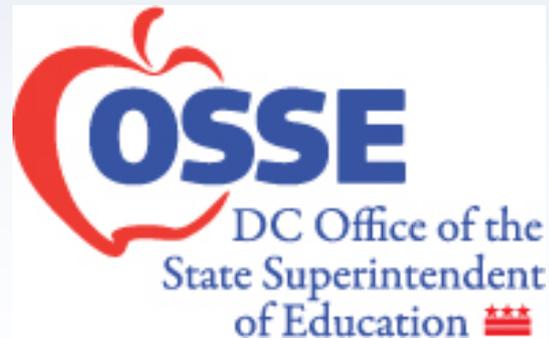


Parental Involvement Requirements: Compliance & Meaningful Implementation

Federal Programs Boot Camp for LEAs
September 1, 2009



Welcome and Introductions

- Facilitator Introduction:
 - Nicole Shaffer, Title I Specialist, OSSE



- Participants:
 - Parental Involvement Coordinators,
Principals/Heads of School, Grant Managers

Forthcoming Tools - Not yet available

All materials will be made available on the OSSE website, on the
Title I, Part A page:

<http://www.seo.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1274,q,563482.asp>

- OSSE Parental Involvement Guidance for LEAs
- Sample LEA-Level Parental Involvement Policy
- Sample School-Level Parental Involvement Policy
- Sample “SES/Choice” Parent Notice
- Sample “Right to Request Teacher and Paraprofessional Qualifications” Parent Notice with Sample Request Form
- Sample “Non-Highly Qualified Teacher” Parent Notice
- Sample “Invitation to Annual Parent Meeting” Parent Notice

Objectives

1. Overview of Parental Involvement under the ESEA
2. LEA Requirements for Parental Involvement
3. School Requirements for Parental Involvement
4. Parental Notifications – Who, When, Why, & How
5. Demonstrating Compliance

Purpose of Title I, Part A

“...to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.”

[Section 1001, ESEA]

Parental Involvement: A Basic Requirement of Title I, Part A

An LEA may receive Title I, Part A funds only if the LEA “implements programs, activities, and procedures” for parental involvement, which must be “planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.”

[Section 1118(a)(1), ESEA]

Definition of Parental Involvement under the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA)

The ESEA defines parental involvement as, “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.”

[Section 9101(32), ESEA]

“Regular, Two-Way, and Meaningful Communication...”

- SEAs, LEAs, and schools must provide information to parents of students participating in Title I, Part A programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, “to the extent practicable,” in a language that parents can understand.
- SEAs, LEAs, and schools must ensure that parents with disabilities have an equal opportunity to be involved in the Title I, Part A program and in their child’s education. A disabled parent has the right to request an alternative means of communication.

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LEA Requirements for Parental Involvement

Financial Requirements:

An LEA with a Title I, Part A allocation of **\$500,000 or more:**

- 1% set-aside requirement for parental involvement
- 95% of the first 1% set aside must go to schools

An LEA with a Title I, Part A allocation of **less than \$500,000:**

- No required set-aside for parental involvement
- Still must fulfill parental involvement requirements

LEA Requirements for Parental Involvement

Policy Requirements:

An LEA must develop a **written parental involvement policy** that establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will:

- Involve parents in the joint development of the LEA Title I plan (as expressed in the LEA's Consolidated Application for funding), and the process of school review and improvement
- Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance
- Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs
- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served by Title I, Part A funds

Involve parents in the activities of schools served by Title I, Part A funds

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School Requirements for Parental Involvement

Policy Requirements:

A school served under Title I, Part A must develop a **written parental involvement policy** that describes how the school will:

- Convene an annual meeting
- Offer a flexible number of meetings at a variety of times
- Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including the school parental involvement policy and the schoolwide program plan
- Provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, Part A, a description and explanation of the curriculum and academic assessment used at the school, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet
- Provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents with migratory children
- Build capacity for parental involvement

A **school-parent compact** must be included as a component of the school's written parental involvement policy.

About the Annual Meeting

A school served under Title I, Part A must:

- Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in the Title I, Part A program and to explain the requirements of the program and the right of the parents to be involved.
- Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening. The school may provide with Title I, Part A funds transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

About Building Parent Capacity

A school served under Title I, Part A must:

- Provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the District of Columbia's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, the District of Columbia's or any LEA or school-level academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children
- Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents
- To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
- Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand
- Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request

About the School-Parent Compact

The compact identifies the activities that the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will undertake to share the responsibility to improve student academic achievement. The compact must:

- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I, Part A to meet the District of Columbia's student academic achievement standards
- Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time
- Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum –
 - Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement
 - Frequent reports to parents on their child's progress
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities

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Parental Notifications – Who, When, Why, & How

- OSSE will provide a notification checklist shortly.
- For now, please refer to the US Department of Education's non-regulatory guidance on parental involvement (see Resources slide).
- Many of these parent notifications are required prior to the beginning of or near the beginning of the school year.
- Some notifications and other parental involvement requirements may be combined.

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Demonstrating Compliance

It is suggested that LEAs and/or their schools should maintain on file:

- Sign-in sheets for all parent meetings and workshops
- Documentation of any materials that were handed out to parents at meetings – copies of the handouts and parent signatures that these were received
- Agendas and presentations provided at parent meetings
- Receipts for all mailings sent to parents

Reviewing Our Objectives



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Resources

- US Department of Education's non-regulatory guidance: <http://www.ed.gov/programs/titleiparta/parentinvguid.pdf>
- Parental Involvement Toolkit:
<http://www.sedl.org/connections/toolkit/toolkit-titleI-parent-inv.pdf>
- DC PIRC (Parent Information Resource Center):
<http://www.mcsdc.org/ht/d/sp/i/1698/pid/1698>
- US Department of Education parent page:
<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/schoolbox/index.html>

Questions



For Further Information:

Contact your LEA's assigned Title I Specialist:

<http://www.seo.dc.gov/seo/cwp/view,a,1274,q,563419.asp>