

# ST. MARYS AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: TITLE I PARENT  
ENGAGEMENT AND  
INVOLVEMENT

ADOPTED: November 8, 2010

REVISED: January 8, 2018

<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>918. TITLE I PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT</b></p> <p>It is the policy of the St. Marys Area School District's Title I program to encourage active participation of parents and those in the role of parents as required by Title I, Part A, Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.</p> <p><b>PART I. EXPECTATIONS</b></p> <p>The St. Marys Area School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements of Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of 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.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• 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:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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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. DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. To improve student achievement, to foster effective parental involvement, and to support partnerships among Title I schools, parents, and the community, the St. Marys Area School District has established a Title I District Parent Advisory Council comprised of one parent representative from each Title I School and one alternate of each said Title I school as a means to specifically involve parents in the collaborative development of the district parent involvement policy and district parent involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA.
2. St. Marys Area School District holds District Parent Advisory Council meetings to:
  - a. Review/update the effectiveness of the District Parent Involvement Policy.
  - b. Develop and carry out the district level parent involvement plan.
  - c. Ensure that parents of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other parents including information in a language and format they can understand.
  - d. Ensure Homeless students have access to Title I services if they qualify.
  - e. Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA
3. The St. Marys Area School District will provide 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:
  - a. Inform parents of the District Parent Advisory Council and the Parental Involvement Policy during school level Open House, post the policy on the district website, and encourage parents to participate with the Parent organization at their Title I school.
  - b. Monitor each Title I, Part A school to ensure that each school performs the following tasks (with parents):
    1. Conduct parent organization meetings.
    2. Cooperatively develop a Title I parent involvement policy, a parent involvement plan and student/parent compact.
    3. Provide timely information about Title I and the school program.
    4. Seek input on supplemental researched based programs & materials.

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>5. Solicit input on professional development to support academic achievement.</li><li>6. Provide informational workshops and training.</li><li>7. Furnish information in a format and language parents can understand.</li><li>8. Keep parents updated on current parent/student involvement practices.</li><li>9. Maintain open lines of communication.</li><li>10. Encourage parent involvement.</li></ol> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>4. The St. Marys Area School District will coordinate and integrate transitional parental involvement strategies with Preshcool, Kindergarten Readiness, and local Head Start programs.</li><li>5. The St. Marys Area School District will 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 literacy, or are of racial or ethnic minority background). The St. Marys Area School District will use the findings to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies during the end of the year Parent Advisory Board meeting. Parents will review Title I supplemental materials and programs in use, discuss professional development needs and if parent involvement has increased and to identify the barriers to parental participation that needs to be addressed.</li><li>6. The St. Marys 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.<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>A. The St. Marys Area 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:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the State's PA Core academic content standards,</li><li>• the State's student academic achievement standards,</li><li>• the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,</li><li>• the requirements of Part A,</li><li>• how to monitor their child's progress, and</li><li>• how to work with educators</li></ul>Parents information with regard to the above aforementioned topics and Title I requirements are provided by all Title I schools during an annual Open House, student orientations, parent conferences, and informational parent workshops. PSSA results, local assessments and progress reports are also disseminated to keep parents informed.</li></ol></li></ol>
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- B. The St. Marys Area 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 involvement, by offering creative parent involvement activities jointly developed with the Parent Advisory Board. Each Title I school addresses identified training needs, curriculum deficits, and parent concerns in support of increased academic achievement.
- C. The St. Marys Area School District will, with the assistance of its Title I 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 during teacher meetings and professional development opportunities geared toward strengthening parent/teacher communication and building positive relationships.
- D. The St. Marys Area School District, to the extent feasible and appropriate, will coordinate and integrate transitional parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Kindergarten Readiness programs and other public preschools to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children as specified in the district transition plan. Transition activities are also conducted between Title I schools and our local middle schools to meet the extended needs of our Title I students.

**PART III. DISCRETIONARY POLICY COMPONENTS**

In consultation with its parents, the St. Marys Area School District chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, by following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- providing necessary literacy training for parents.
- encouraging parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- arranging school meetings at a variety of times, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education,
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

	<p>References:</p> <p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318</p> <p>Board Policy – 102</p> <p><u>Pub. L. 89–10, title I, § 1116, formerly § 1118, as added Pub. L. 107–110, title I, § 101, Jan. 8, 2002, 115 Stat. 1501; renumbered § 1116 and amended Pub. L. 114–95, title I, §§ 1000(2), 1010, Dec. 10, 2015, 129 Stat. 1814, 1868</u></p>
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