

## **Jackson County Parental Involvement Policy 2009-2010**

**NOTE: In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school district that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district-wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).**

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### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The **Jackson County 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 through 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 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 Florida Department of Education.

- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent 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.*

- The school district will inform parents and parent organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parent Information and Resource Center(s) (PIRC) in the state. Florida has two PIRCs. For more information regarding the PIRC of Family Network on Disabilities of Florida (FND) please visit their Web site at: [www.fndfl.org/projects/pirc/index.asp](http://www.fndfl.org/projects/pirc/index.asp) . For more information regarding the PIRC at University of South Florida (USF), please visit their Web site at: [www.floridapirc.usf.edu](http://www.floridapirc.usf.edu) .

## **PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT- WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The **Jackson County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement policy under section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - The district will develop a district-wide parental advisory council to solicit input into the parental involvement policy.

- The council will meet twice annually to review and update the policy.
  - The council will be composed of selected parent representatives from each school's School Advisory Council, community partners, school and district leaders.
  - The district-wide policy will be incorporated into the Jackson County School Board Title I Plan.
  - The District Parental Involvement Council will be involved in the development of the District Improvement Plan.
  - The school board meetings and workshops will be advertised prior to the meetings.
  - During the school board workshop or meeting, parents will have an opportunity to address any concerns with the Title I Plan.
2. The **Jackson County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
- All schools in the district will organize a School Advisory Council (SAC), with the majority of its members not employed by the District.
  - The School Advisory Council will serve as the decision-making body of the school.
  - The School Advisory Council will meet quarterly to develop, review and offer suggestions for improvement of the School Improvement Plan, as well as all other policies required by NCLB.
  - The School Advisory Council will review data, discuss strategies implemented, and evaluate progress made by the students.
3. The **Jackson County 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's Title I director will meet monthly and additional times as needed with principals to provide technical assistance.
  - The district's e-mail system (GroupWise) will be utilized to provide technical assistance.
  - The district will allocate Title I funds earmarked for parental involvement activities.

- Title I director will visit Title I participating schools to offer assistance and support of parental involvement activities.
  - The district will allocate professional development funds to Title I schools to assist schools in attending state conferences and Region I workshops.
4. The **Jackson County School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as Early Childhood and Exceptional Student Education:
- Including personnel from the different programs, such as HeadStart, VPK, Early Childhood and Exceptional Student Education on the Districtwide Parental Council.
  - Informing parents through Title I newsletters and school newsletters about Title I and other programs.
  - Coordinating with the ESE department to assist families with parental involvement strategies for children who have special or unique needs.
  - Including parents with children receiving services from HeadStart, VPK, Early Childhood and Exceptional Student Education.
  - Providing childfind activities and pre-school parent training and staff development.
5. The **Jackson County 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 instrument will be developed at the District-wide Parental Advisory Council in an effort to solicit parental involvement.
  - The evaluation will include identifying barriers to increase participation and parental involvement activities with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
  - The policy will be evaluated annually at each of the Title I participating schools during a school advisory council (SAC) meeting.
  - The chairman of SAC or principal's designee will be responsible for conducting this evaluation.
  - Parents will have an opportunity and will be encouraged to complete an evaluation.

- The evaluation instrument will be sent home to allow other parents to have an opportunity to evaluate the policy.
  - The District Parent Involvement Council will review the findings of the annual parental survey to develop strategies for more effective parental involvement.
6. The **Jackson County School District** will build each school's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools 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, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

**TOPICS:**

- State academic content standards
- State student academic achievement standards
- State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- Requirements of Title I, Part A
- Monitoring each child's progress
- Working with educators

**ACTIONS:**

- Parent – Teacher Conferences
- School Advisory Council
- Parent – Teacher Organizations
- JCSB Website [www.icsb.org](http://www.icsb.org)
- DOE Website [www.fldoe.org](http://www.fldoe.org)
- Parent Resource Guide
- Parent Orientation
- FCAT Explorer [www.fcatexplorer.com](http://www.fcatexplorer.com)
- Newsletters
- Parents Night Out
- Pinnacle (on-line school information, student daily grades and attendance for parents) [www.icsb.org](http://www.icsb.org) Click on Parents.

- 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, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

- Families Building Better Readers
- Parent Resource Guide
- Florida Desk Reference
- Parents As Teachers
- JCSB Website [www.icsb.org](http://www.icsb.org)

C. The school district 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, by:

- Families Building Better Readers
- School Advisory Council
- Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS/CASI)

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Early Headstart, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and 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.

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, including alternate formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- Jackson County has approximately 55 ELL students which represent less than 1% of the district's student population. The majority of those students are Spanish speaking students. The district uses a website to translate the English language to other languages, as appropriate.

### **PART III. Discretionary District Parental Involvement Policy Components**

The **Jackson County School District** will, in consultation with its parents, undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA by:

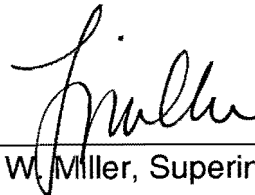
- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.

- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Providing childcare, if needed, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- Arranging school meetings at a variety of times in order to maximize parent involvement and participation in their children's education.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent involvement.
- Establishing a district-wide parental advisory council to provide input on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

#### **PART IV. Adoption**

The District Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by the **Jackson County School District** on February 25, 2010 , and will be in effect for the school year **2009-2010**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.



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Lee W. Miller, Superintendent

2/25/10

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Date