



Fairfield Community Schools Title I Parental Involvement Policy

Fairfield Community Schools intends to follow the parental policy guidelines in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 as listed below. Fairfield Community Schools will distribute this policy to parents of students participating in the Title I program.

Policy Guidelines

- Parents and staff members will be invited to review current Title I programming and develop a plan for the following school year. Each spring semester, a district-level meeting will be conducted with parents, Title I staff, and administrators from all Title I schools. The first half of the meeting will focus on district Title I supports and district curriculum initiatives with an assessment of current programs. Participants will then suggest edits and improvements to district-level policy. The second half of the meeting will focus on each Title I school with participants breaking out into small groups by school to review programming, suggest changes, and edit current plans. This portion of the planning meeting will also detail how parents can be involved in each school in the on-going review of programs and Title I services.

- Fairfield Community Schools will support the work of each Title I school by maintaining the PowerSchool Parent Portal and Power Announcement notification system for parent communication, by scheduling parent-teacher conferences in the district calendar, by coordinating Title I services with current programming in the process of applying for the Title I grant, and by meeting with each school every April to review the effectiveness of Title I services prior to the next grant cycle.

- Fairfield Community Schools helps build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing parents with:
 - Information about Indiana College and Career Readiness Standards from the IDOE website and publications to parents. The district will provide a report card with certain standards and performance indicators separated out from the overall letter grade.
 - Newsletters, teacher email and contact information, and invitations for both formal and informal conferences with teachers.
 - Quarterly reading reports that show student reading levels and performance on mClass reading assessments; these reports indicate whether students are performing below, at, or above grade level.
 - Opportunities to take part in groups that provide feedback to the school about programs and services such as district-level curriculum adoption committees, parent-teacher organizations, the district wellness committee, and school improvement teams.
 - Materials and support to boost student achievement through a partnership with home. Parents are provided literacy and phonemic awareness activities in take-home kits/books; the school board approves school-wide "One Book" programs; parents are provided links to on-line resources and games. Parents also can obtain help from the schools with accessing on-line grade reports through the Parent Portal.
 - A school staff committed to the importance of communicating with parents. Teachers and schools provide newsletters, progress reports, and reading reports to update parents consistently on student performance. Teachers are rated annually on their interaction with parents as part of Fairfield's teacher evaluation system.

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- Information in a language and a form parents can understand. Materials will be translated as necessary, a translator will be provided at school meetings, and Power Announcement parent notifications can be sent in Spanish.
- A shared expectation that school and parents can request academic, emotional, and social support for the improvement of student achievement

• Fairfield Community Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I, Part A with Title III language supports. Teachers and Title personnel will work with parents to understand student reading and vocabulary needs, and schools will create a continuum of services for students across both programs. Fairfield Schools will also provide information to families regarding First Steps through the Elkhart County Special Education Cooperative, and Fairfield will explore pre-school opportunities for students.

• Each spring as part of the planning meeting, Fairfield Schools will 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 with Title I, Part A funds. Parents will be asked to identify in the meeting and in surveys sent home by the schools the barriers to greater participation by parents with particular attention given 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 findings from the surveys and planning meetings will be used to modify or design new strategies for more effective parental involvement.

Expectations for Parent Involvement

Fairfield Community Schools intends that parents of participating students be provided with frequent and convenient opportunities for full and ongoing participation in the Title I program. This shall include opportunities to jointly develop the Title I program plan and suggest modifications in the process for school review and improvement. Any comments indicating parents' dissatisfaction with the district Title I program must be collected and considered when completing the Title I Application for Grant to the Indiana Division of Compensatory Education. The Title I program must be designed to assist students to acquire the competencies and achieve the goals established by law, as well as the goals and standards established by the Fairfield Community Schools Board. These goals and standards must be shared with parents in a manner that will enable them to (1) participate in decisions concerning their child's education and (2) monitor and improve the educational achievement of their child.

School Policy

Each school must submit its Title I school parent involvement policy, which must meet all legal requirements. This policy must be developed jointly with and be distributed by the school to parents of participating students. The policy must be updated annually. A copy of each school's parent involvement policy shall be kept on file with the school's Title I program application in the Central Office.

References

Section 1118 of No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001

Website for Indiana Department of Education: <http://www.doe.in.gov/titlei>