

Alachua County Public Schools

Title I District Parental Involvement Plan 2010-2011

Go

I, Dr. Dan Boyd , do hereby certify that all facts, figures, and representations made in this application are true, correct, and consistent with the statement of assurances for these waivers. Furthermore, all applicable statutes, regulations, and procedures; administrative and programmatic requirements; and procedures for fiscal control and maintenance of records will be implemented to ensure proper accountability for the expenditure of funds on this project. All records necessary to substantiate these requirements will be available for review by appropriate state and federal staff. I further certify that all expenditures will be obligated on or after the effective date and prior to the termination date of the project. Disbursements will be reported only as appropriate to this project, and will not be used for matching funds on this or any special project, where prohibited.

Assurances

- The LEA 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 with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children;
- Consistent with Section 1118, the LEA 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 includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA;
- The LEA will incorporate this LEA-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 LEA 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 [Section 1118(f)];
- 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 LEA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the LEA submits the plan to FDOE;
- The LEA will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one 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, after equitable provisions have been provided to participating private schools;

- The LEA will be governed by the statutory definition of “parental involvement” defined in Section 9101 (32), and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition; and
- The LEA will inform parents and parent organizations of the purpose and existence of both Parent Information and Resource Center(s) (PIRC) in the state.

Signature of Superintendent or Designee

(Note: If this certification is signed by a designee, then the letter authorizing this person to sign in place of the Superintendent must be included with this request.)

Date Signed

Mission Statement

Parental Involvement Mission Statement (Optional)

Response: The School Board of Alachua County recognizes that a child’s education is a responsibility shared by the school and family. To support the goal to educate all students effectively, the school and parents must work in close collaboration with one another. It is the desire of the Board to strengthen family involvement and family empowerment through a policy that addresses parent choices and responsibilities; links with community services; opportunities for parental involvement in the development, implementation, and evaluation of family programs; and opportunities for parents to participate on school advisory councils and in school volunteer programs and other activities. Toward this end, the Board supports the development of a relationship between the school and home that fosters:

- a. Communication between the home and school on a regular and on-going basis;
- b. Parents playing an integral role in assisting student learning;
- c. Parents being welcome at school, and their support and assistance being actively encouraged; including participation in school advisory councils and PTA;
- d. Development of community resources to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning; and
- e. Development of clear expectations of good student behavior, attendance, and academic performance.

Involvement of Parents

Describe the actions the LEA will take to involve parents in the following required policies/plans:

- LEA-wide parental involvement policy [Section 1118(a)(2)];
- LEA plan [Sections 1112 (c)(H), 1112(d)(1)];
- School review and improvement under Section 1116 [Sections 1118(a)(2)(A), 1116(a)(1)(D), 1116(b)(3)(A)]; and
- How the funds reserved for parental involvement will be spent [Section 1118(a)(2)].

Response: The District will involve parents in the joint development of its District wide Plans (including the District Parent Involvement Plan, the District School Improvement Plan, and Restructuring) by:

1. inviting Title I parents through notices, personal and written contacts, school

marquee announcements, posters, phone home messages, and website postings, to serve on the parent committee to identify goals, discuss funding, allocations and decisions regarding district parent involvement activities, review, develop and revise the plan with the Title I District Teacher on Special Assignment, Title I Staff, Parents, School Parent Involvement Contacts, Title I Lead Teachers or School Staff, and Home School Liaisons;

2. convening this meeting, creating focus groups, discussing funding and allocations of funds to schools, identifying goals and objectives, gathering input, collecting written surveys and focus groups notes, and minutes during the spring of each school year prior to the Title I application due date;

3. reviewing and revising the District Parent Involvement Plan, identifying goals, discussing funding and allocations, and collecting written surveys and focus group notes at the District Parent Involvement Committee Meeting, which convenes in the fall and spring of each school year; and

4. providing training to schools for SAC members, helping to secure a balanced representation.

The District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement by:

1. inviting Title I parents through notices, personal and written contacts, school marquee announcements, posters, phone home messages, and website postings to be part of each school improvement committee with the given task of developing Title I school plans, project planning and implementation, and parent involvement procedures. School surveys will be distributed and analyzed to evaluate school needs and data collected throughout the year will be shared with the SAC;

2. convening annual school meetings at the start of the school year, conducted by the

school principal, to inform parents of their school's participation in the development of the Parent Involvement Plan and their right to be involved. Parents are also encouraged to participate in school meetings by the Title I letter contained in the Parents' Rights packet distributed on the first day of school and/or at the beginning of school; and

3. including parents in discussing funding, gathering input, presenting ideas, and making final decisions based on identified needs and the overall consensus of the group involving the use of the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental involvement during the development of the School Improvement Plan at the SAC meetings and Restructuring meetings held at Title I schools.

Technical Assistance

Describe the actions the LEA will take to provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities which build the capacity of parents to improve the academic achievement of their child and overall school performance [Section 1118(a)(2)(B and C) and 1118(e)(1-14)]. Include a description of the process the LEA will use to review the school-level PIP to ensure compliance with all requirements of Section 1118 [34 CFR 200.30(e)]. Include information on how the LEA will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request [Section 1118(e)(14)].

- Response:**
1. conducting ongoing site visits during the school year to Title I schools by Title I staff;
 2. providing information, materials, and training not otherwise available to help parents with their child's achievement through Title I Parent Involvement Meetings conducted by Title I staff held in the fall and spring of each year;
 3. enhancing the awareness of teachers, student services personnel, principals, and staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners by developing Professional Learning Communities on Working With Parents, providing staff development on Engaging Families/Family Friendly Schools during the Title I Parent Involvement Meetings, providing technical assistance on research based articles, programs and activities during site visits and monthly District Meetings;
 4. ensuring, to the extent possible, that information is sent home in a language and form that parents can understand by providing translations with Via Language and TransACT;
 5. arranging for in-home conferences through the Title I Home School Liaisons;
 6. providing information on literacy training available in the community by distributing the ACPS Adult Literacy information brochures and providing county contact information to Lead Teachers and Parent Involvement Contacts from each Title I school

at the Title I meetings;

7. informing schools, parents, staff, and parent organizations of the purpose and existence of The Florida Parent Information Resource Center(s) (PIRC) through notices distributed on the first day of school and beginning of school, postings on the Title I website, and meetings; and

8. reviewing annually each school level Parent Involvement Plan by Title I Staff, using the state template and rubric, to ensure compliance and that the activities planned will provide meaningful opportunities for parents to become more involved in their child's education. Feedback from the rubric and technical assistance will be provided to each Title I school through documented site visits by Title I Staff during the year, technical assistance meetings held in the spring/summer of each year, district meetings, and through Title I meetings held in the fall and spring of each year. Templates will be distributed to all Title I schools in October and are due in February. Reviews will be completed by the Title I staff by April. The final school level Parent Involvement Plan, including revisions, will be due the first week of June.

Coordination and Integration

Describe how the LEA will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies from Part A of Title I with other federal programs (including but not limited to Head Start, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, Parts C and D of Title I, Title III, and Part A of Title IV) [Sections 1118 (a)(2)(D) and 1118(e)(4)].

count Program

Coordination

1	Head Start	Planning in the fall includes collaboration, planning, and coordination with the Head Start Director and staff, Title I District Staff, and school site staff to provide programs for Head Start parents. Transition to kindergarten programs for the parents of Head Start students entering the regular public schools are conducted by Head Start Staff and Title I School Staff at various school sites in the spring. Other programs that include Readiness Skills, Parenting Workshops, and Workshops for Fa Planning includes monthly Title I Staff meetings including the Migrant Education Supervisor to coordinate activities, update on events, and to provide program information. Staff and migrant parents are also invited to participate in the Parent Committee Meetings and District Title I Meetings.
2	Migrant	
3	Homeless	Planning includes monthly Title I Staff meetings including the Homeless Coordinator to coordinate activities, update on events, and to provide program information. Staff and homeless parents are also invited to participate in the Parent Committee Meetings and District Title I Meetings.

Annual Evaluation

Describe the actions the LEA will take 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 [Section 1118(a)(2)(E)].

Response: The Alachua County Public Schools LEA will meet bi-annually with the Parent Involvement Committee for input into the development, implementation, review, evaluation, and revision as needed of the existing LEA Parent Involvement Plan through creating focus groups, analyzing participation data, and collecting written surveys which includes information of barriers to participation. Also, the District will gather data from the Parent Involvement Activity Documentation reports and the Evaluations Reports documenting the participation, implementation, and evaluations of parent programs in Title I schools. The data is compiled in the Title I Annual Parent Activity Evaluation report in the spring of each year. The results are reviewed and shared at the Parent Committee Meetings, the Title I Meetings, and are disseminated to all Principals. Also, documentation in the Needs Assessment section of the School Improvement Plan of each Title I school will include the results of the Parent Climate Surveys. Results of the evaluation will be posted on the District website and a hard copy will be provided to each school for placement in the parent resource area. The results will be used by District staff, Principals, parents and school staff to evaluate programs, to increase participation, to address barriers to participation, to adjust programs and projects, and to revise plans to meet the needs of the students and parents.

Building Capacity

If the LEA plans to implement LEA-wide activities, describe the actions the LEA will take to build the schools' and parents' 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 [Sections 1118(a)(2)(C), 1118(e)(1-14)].

count	Content and Type of Activity	Person Responsible	Correlation to Student Achievement	Timeline	Evidence of Effectiveness
1	Distribute Parent Newsletter: Value of Parents - Parents Make A Difference-A monthly research based newsletter for parents	Title I Staff, School Title I Lead Teacher	Improve the ability of parents to work effectively with their child and to work effectively with teachers and school staff.	September to May	School Survey; sign-ins; activity logs

2	District Parent Committee Meeting– Program Planning-Build capacity at schools, discuss barriers, review & revise District Plan	Title I Director, Supervisor & Staff	Conduct meeting –Program Planning to discuss and address survey results and barriers, build capacity, expectations, and goals for the district to increase parent involvement	Fall & Spring	School Survey, sign-ins, comments and input survey, evaluations
3	Distribute District-wide Parent Notification Requirements, PIRC Parent Resources, parent resources and provide website postings	Title I Supervisor and TSAs	Increase communication, provide updates of functions, parent notifications and resources	August to May	School Survey; sign-in sheets

Staff Training

Describe the professional development activities the LEA will provide, with the assistance of its schools and parents, to educate staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; the implementation and coordination of parent programs; and how to build ties between parents and the school [Section 1118 (e)(3)].

count	Content and Type of Activity	Person Responsible	Correlation to Student Achievement	Timeline	Evidence of Effectiveness
1	Training of Title I Lead Teachers and Parent Involvement Contacts in the implementation, value and coordination of the parent involvement plan/program	Title I Staff	Improve the ability of staff to work effectively w/parents	August to May	Parent Involvement Activity Logs for 1st and 2nd semester, sign-in sheets, Activity Documentation

2	Professional Learning Communities/Staff Development- Engaging Families, Working with Parents to Build Family Friendly Schools	District Staff Development/Title I staff	To work effectively with parents-increase participation/involvement	Fall to Spring	Staff Development Evaluation, Activity Logs
3	Training on Building Better Connections Between Home and School- Engaging Families/Creating Family Friendly Schools	Title I Staff & PIRC Staff	Promoting home/school connections and relationships to increase participation and involvement	1st Semester	School Survey, Evaluations, Activity Logs

Communication and Accessibility

Describe how the LEA will provide full opportunities for participation in parental involvement activities for all parents (including parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and migratory children). Include how the LEA plans to share information related to school and parent programs, meetings, school reports, and other activities in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practical, in a language parents can understand [Section 1118(e)(5) and 1118(f)].

Response: The District Parent Involvement Plan will be published into a summary document in English and Spanish. This document will be provided to all parents in the “Beginning of School Packet.” The summary will outline the major components of the policy and will offer a complete hard copy to parents upon request to the Title I Lead Teachers and/or the Parent Involvement Contacts at Title I schools. In addition, complete hard copies will be available in the office and parent resource areas at each Title I school. Also, hard copies are available at the District Title I office. The complete District Parent Involvement Plan will be posted on the on the District Title I website and linked or posted on each Title I school’s website.

The District provides schools with information on local agencies that provide assistance for parents with disabilities. (Example: Center for Independent Living) The District will utilize TransACT documents and contract with the Via Language Company to provide school-related documents, to the extent possible, for parents in a language and form they can understand. Also, the District will monitor by monthly site visits and provide support to the Title I ELL Center School in the county. Student data that reflects changes in

population will be collected and reviewed at schools on a quarterly basis to ensure that information is available to parents in a language and form, to the extent feasible, as needed. The LEA will monitor schools following the reports with site visits to ensure that information is available to parents considering fluctuating student populations.

Discretionary Activities

The LEA parental involvement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the LEA, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement [Section 1118(e)]. Check here if the LEA does not plan to implement the discretionary parental involvement activities listed below and skip to the Adoption section. Check all activities the LEA plans to implement:

count	Activity	Description of Implementation Strategy	Person Responsible	Correlation to Student Achievement	Timeline
1	Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions [Section 1118(e)(8)]; Maximizing parental involvement and participation in their children's education by arranging school	Pay requested reasonable childcare expenses to conduct meetings	Title I Lead Teacher	Reduce barriers to parent's participating in school events	August to May
2	meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school [Section 1118(e)(10)];	Flexible time frames of meetings, at least 2 programs/events each year	Title I Lead Teacher	Reduce time barriers for parents' participation in school meetings	August to May