PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Generally

The Caroline County School Board recognizes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school and the student’s family. The Caroline County Public School Board endorses the parent and family engagement goals of Title I (20 U.S.C. § 6318) and encourages the regular participation by parents and family members of all children including those eligible for Title I and English learner programs in all aspects of those programs.

In keeping with these beliefs, the Caroline County Public School Board cultivates and supports active parent and family engagement in student learning. The Caroline County Public School Board:

- provides activities that educate parents regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children. These activities promote cooperation between the division and other agencies or school/community groups (such as parent-teacher groups, the Head Start program, the Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, and Parents as Teachers program) to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development
- implements strategies to involve parents in the educational process, including:
  - keeping families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various programs
  - providing access to educational resources for parents and families to use with their children
  - keeping families informed of the objectives of division educational programs as well as of their child’s participation and progress with these programs
- enables families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, family members may
  - provide input into division policies
  - volunteer time within the classroom and school program
- provides professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent involvement strategies
- performs regular evaluations of parent involvement at each school and in the division
- provides access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum
- if practicable, provides information in a language understandable to parents
In addition, for parents of students eligible for English learner programs, the School Board informs such parents of how they can be active participants in assisting their children

- to learn English;
- to achieve at high levels in core academic subjects; and
- to meet the same challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.

Parental Involvement in Title I Plan

The Caroline County Public School Board encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, programs to participate in the development of the Board’s Title I plan. Parents may participate by

- attending division-wide parent advisory council meetings
- submitting suggestions for the development of the plan to the Title I Coordinator
- completing and returning annual input surveys
- participating on school and division committees

Parental Involvement in School Review and Improvement

The Caroline County Public School Division encourages parents of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, and LEP English learner programs to participate in the process of school review and, if applicable, the development of support and improvement plans under 20 U.S.C. § 6311(d)(1) and (2). Parents may participate by

- attending school parent advisory council meetings
- serving on school review/or school-wide planning teams
- submitting suggestions to school administration

Division Responsibilities

The Caroline County Public School Division, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds:

- provides assistance to parents of children served by the school or division, as applicable, in understanding topics such as Virginia’s challenging academic standards, state and local academic assessments and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children
- provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to reach out to,
communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school

- to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinates and integrates parental involvement programs and activities with other federal, state and local programs, including public preschool, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children
- ensures 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
- provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request

The Caroline County Public Schools School Division, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds, may:
- involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training
- provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds if the division has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training
- pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation
- adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement
- establish a division wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported by Title I
- develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities

School Parent and Family Engagement Policies

Each school served under Title I, Part A, jointly develops with and distributes to parents and family members of participating children a written
parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that describes
the means for carrying out the following:
- convening an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of
  participating children are invited and encouraged to attend, to inform
  parents of their school’s participation in Title I, Part A, and to explain the
  requirements of Title I, Part A, and the rights of parents to be involved
- offering a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or
  evening. Schools may provide, with funds provided under this part,
  transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services related to
  parent involvement
- involving parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the
  planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A, programs including
  the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family
  engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program
  plan under 20 U.S.C. 6314(b), except that if a school has in place a
  process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the
  school’s programs, the school may use that process, if such process
  includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children
- providing parents of participating children:
  - timely information about Title I, Part A, programs;
  - a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the
    school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure
    student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging
    state academic standards; and
  - if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to
    formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in
    decisions relating to the education of their children, and responding
    to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible
- if the school wide program plan under 20 U.S.C. § 6314(b) is not
  satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submitting any parent
  comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the
  School Board

Parent and Family Involvement in Allocation of Funding

Parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I, Part A,
are involved in the decisions regarding how funds provided under Title I, Part A, are
allotted for parental involvement activities.

Policy Review

The School Board conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and
family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in
improving the academic quality of all schools served under Title 1, Part A, including
identifying
- barriers to greater participation by parents (with particular attention 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 needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
- strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Adopted: August 14, 2017


Cross Refs.: AD Educational Philosophy
BCF Advisory Committees to the School Board
IAA Notification of Learning Objectives
IKA Parental Assistance with Instruction