

# UNIONTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## DISTRICT WIDE PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

### PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Uniontown Area 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 with 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 State 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 parental 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 parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State. (SPAC)

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

**1. The Uniontown Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:**

Convene an annual meeting with representatives of all schools, parents and faculty.

**2. The Uniontown Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:**

Counselors will review the activities from the previous year to determine which activities were most effective. These will be shared at the annual meeting. Programs that involve students create a better parent turn-out. Some of the past programs have been: Family Night, Meet the Teacher Night, Explore and Educate, Patron's Day, Study Skills Night, Community Connections, etc.

**3. The Uniontown Area 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:**

Student Agendas are used in all the schools to insure parents are aware of activities. Monthly PAC meetings are held at each school to discuss activities for the upcoming year.

**4. The Uniontown Area School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:**

Head Start, Explore and Educate, Jump Start, Chestnut Ridge, Go Math, and Family Reading Night.

**5. The Uniontown Area 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 will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary its parental involvement policies.**

Each building has their own parent & family engagement policy and a parent evaluation is given out at their individual PAC meetings to determine the needs of each building. Each building counselor reports annually to the Federal Coordinator the results of the evaluations to determine how best to proceed for the next year. Sign in sheets are also used to determine which programs were the most effective.

A district-wide parent meeting is held annually and an evaluation is also given out at this time to parents to determine the overall needs.

**1. The Uniontown 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, 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—**

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

A parent workshop is held every spring with varying topics, and it includes a book fair for parents to purchase books but also receive free items. Parent teacher conferences are held, Meet the Teacher Nights, monthly PAC meetings, Explore and Educate, the district website, and district letters. All these are used to keep the parents informed and involved.

**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:**

Training for parents is available through the use of Edline, Study Island, GoMath Academy, Think Central, and Big Ideas. Students and parents have access to these resources at home through the use of a login and password. Coaches are available to assist the parents with the use of these resources.

- 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:**

Teachers are provided professional development opportunities on how to communicate with parents. Parent teacher conferences, phone calls, letters, flyers, and the district website are all forms of communication used to keep parents informed and involved.

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, 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, by:**

Screenings are given to incoming students and we work closely with Head Start and Jump Start Kindergarten.

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:**

ESL coordinator will be notified of parents who may require additional help.

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**NOTE:** The District wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, 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; such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- 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;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school 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;
- 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;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

**PART IV. ADOPTION**

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by \_\_\_\_\_.

This policy was adopted by the Uniontown Area School District on \_\_\_\_\_, and will be in effect for the period of \_\_\_\_\_. The District will post this policy on the district website.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Authorized Official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date