

Jefferson Elementary, Rock Creek Elementary and Jefferson Junior High School Parent Involvement Plans.

PTO --- Jefferson Elementary and Rock Creek Elementary School

PTO is supported by building principals and provides the opportunity for meaningful parental involvement.

Jefferson Elementary School and Rock Creek Elementary School both maintain PTO web pages, assist parents in communicating with each other through newsletters and email communications.

Jefferson Elementary School PTO Web Page

<http://www.jalsd.org/schools/jes/jes-pto>

Rock Creek Elementary School PTO Web Page

<http://www.jalsd.org/schools/rces/pto-rces>

Every parent is invited to participate:

Reasons to for parents to get involved with PTO:

Your child benefits!

When parents get connected to the school, children do better. Research shows children whose parents are involved get better grades, do better on tests, and have fewer discipline problems at school.

We make a difference.

Our mission is to create the kind of school community where teachers and administrators can do their best work—and so can our children. We provide support for teachers in and out of the classroom. We provide resources they need. We help create learning opportunities for children. And we try to build the kind of supportive, caring atmosphere that makes school fun.

We pledge to honor your time constraints.

People are often reluctant to participate because they're afraid they'll get pulled into a black hole of never-ending time commitment. That won't happen here. An hour or two a semester really makes a difference. And we won't push you to commit more than you want to or are able to.

We have fun.

Volunteer work shouldn't be drudgery. We accomplish a lot, and not everything we do is easy. But we know we're not balancing the national debt, either. We don't take ourselves too seriously, and we try to enjoy our- selves along the way whenever possible.

Meet nice people who share your concerns. We all have a common bond. We care about creating the best possible educational experience for our children. We are neighbors and peers who share many of the same experiences. And many friendships have developed as a result of those connections.

There's a lot to be done.

These days, schools are asked to do more with less. Our help is needed more than ever to fill the gaps.

We can match jobs to your interests and abilities.

The work we do covers a broad spectrum: filing and photocopying, planning and executing events, writing and editing, working directly with children, managing a budget and cash flow, and lots more. We encourage creative ideas, and we're thrilled to have people take on tasks that meet their skills and interests.

We're welcoming.

To us, there are no "outsiders." We are people who have come together to work toward common goals. We couldn't be happier to have you join us in working toward those goals.

We're about parent involvement, not fundraising.

In these times of tight budgets, parent groups everywhere are having to fill in the gaps, and so are we. But our number one goal is to get more parents connected to the school. That's because more than 300 independent research studies show that building parent involvement in education is the number one thing we can do to create a great school and improve student performance.

This work is very rewarding. It's seeing the bright light of learning sparkle in a child's eye. It's seeing the smile that shows we're making school a little more fun—and a child feel a little more comfortable in a learning environment. It's learning that test scores have risen and knowing we played a role. There are lots of rewards, both big and small, for those who get involved. Won't you join us?

Volunteer Opportunities

Some Examples:

Homeroom Parent Helper/Lead Homeroom Parent

Santa Shop: Event is one-week during December: involves set-up of tables, decorations and merchandise for students to shop for family & friends, volunteering to "assist" students with shopping, donating cookies, calling for volunteers and clean-up at end of event.

Box Tops: This committee needs assistance in planning Box Tops collections and contests/rewards; involves collect Box Tops from community and each classroom, sorting/clipping/organizing

Kindergarten Registration: Two-day event in April that includes calling for volunteers, welcoming parents and future students, signing in and assisting with forms/registration process as needed.

Teacher/Staff Appreciation

Fundraisers: PTO has generally tried to organize 2-3 fundraising events per school year.

Public Relations: Work on monthly PTO newsletter that is distributed to students, assist with articles/pictures in Gazette newspaper, and any other ideas to keep our community aware of activities at our schools.

Right-To-Read: Week-long event to encourage and challenge students to increase their daily reading.

Book Fair: These are week-long events that consist of need to call volunteers, assist students with purchases, setting-up and cleaning after event.

General Support: “I’ll help with anything, just ask me”. We need any and all help to make PTO the best organization for our school and students. Even if you work full-time, please don’t hesitate to check this box. We never turn down ANY volunteer! THANK YOU.

Community Conversations – All Schools Parents and Community

The district sponsors community conversations annually.

Purpose: To bring our constituents together to talk about our community, our schools and how we can improve both.

We engage the community in a series of conversations about the future direction of the schools. The school board and the district’s administration continue to face difficult budgetary decisions. Before tackling them, the Board of Education and school district administrators use these conversations to seek input from our community, parents, students and staff about their priorities, needs and hopes for our schools.

Goals:

- To engage the whole community in a discussion about the direction of its schools.
- To talk about our community, our schools and how we can improve both.
- To use these conversations to develop sound policies to govern our schools and in the face of economic pressure make decisions about what services and programs our schools offer.
- To make this conversation an ongoing one that will strengthen the relationship between our schools and community.

Our Community Conversations are a part of our district's participation in the Ohio Improvement Process (OIP) and Title I programs. Ohio is committed to the implementation of a unified state system of support directly focused on improving the academic achievement of all students and student groups. [Click here for information about the Ohio improvement process](#)

Community and School Email – News Service

All Parents are encouraged to sign up for our school district’s email news service. Parents receive valuable communications from our schools and community using this system.

[Click Here to Sign-Up for News Letter](#)

Parent Surveys

We annually ask parents for feedback via surveys sent out through the community email system and at PTO meetings. This feedback helps us to identify and meet constituent needs.

Jefferson Area Local School District

Bylaws & Policies

2261.01 - PARENT PARTICIPATION IN TITLE I PROGRAMS

In accordance with the requirements of Federal law, programs supported by Title I funds must be planned and implemented in meaningful consultation with parents of the students being served.

Each year the Superintendent shall work with parents of children served in Title I Programs in order to jointly develop and agree upon a proposed written parent involvement policy to establish expectations for the involvement of such parents in the education of their children. The proposed policy shall be reviewed and approved annually by the Board of Education and distributed to parents of children receiving Title I services. The proposed policy must describe how the School District will:

- A. involve parents in the development of the School District's Title I plans and in the process of school review and improvement, if necessary;
- B. provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance;
- C. build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement;
- D. coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents and Teachers, and Home Instruction for Preschool Youngsters;
- E. in consultation with parents, annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of schools, including:
 - 1. identifying barriers to greater parent participation;
 - 2. designing strategies for more effective parental involvement; and,
 - 3. revising the parental involvement policy if necessary;
- F. involve parents of children receiving Title I services in deciding how Title I funds reserved for parent involvement activities will be allocated;
- G. 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 in a format, and to the extent practicable in a language, such parents can understand;
- H. conduct meetings with parents including provisions for flexible scheduling and assistance to parents to better assure their attendance at meetings;
- I. develop agendas for parent meetings to include review and explanation of the curriculum, means of assessments, and the proficiency levels students are expected to achieve and maintain;
- J. provide opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions, interact and share experiences with other parents, and participate appropriately in the decision-making about the program and revisions in the plan;
- K. involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program;
- L. communicate information concerning school performance profiles and their child's individual performance to parents;

- M. assist parents in helping their children in achieving the objectives of the program by such means as ensuring regular attendance, monitoring television-watching, providing adequate time and the proper environment for homework; guiding nutritional and health practices, and the like;
- N. provide timely responses to parental questions, concerns, and recommendations;
- O. coordinate and provide technical assistance and other support necessary to assist Title I schools to develop effective parent participation activities to improve academic achievement;
- P. conduct other activities as appropriate to the Title I plan and State and Federal requirements.

The Superintendent must also assure that each Title I participating school develops a specific written plan, with parental involvement and agreement, which includes provisions regarding the following:

- A. Each principal must convene an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents of participating children are invited and encouraged to attend to explain the parents' rights to be involved and the school's obligations to develop a parental involvement plan.
- B. Meetings with parents of children receiving Title I services must be scheduled at flexible times with assistance such as child care, transportation, home visits, or similar aid offered to parents to encourage their involvement.
- C. Parents must be involved in an organized, on-going and timely way in the development, review, and improvement of parent involvement activities.
- D. Parents of participating students' must be provided with:
 1. timely information about the Title I program and the school's parent involvement policy;
 2. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels expected;
 3. regular meetings, upon request, for parents to make suggestions, and to participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and receive responses regarding the parents' suggestions about their student's education as soon as practicably possible;
- E. As a component of the school parental involvement policy, the principal for each school shall coordinate the development of a school-parent compact jointly with parents which outlines how the school staff, the parents, and the student will share responsibility for academic improvement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve State standards. The compact must:
 1. describe the school's responsibility to provide a high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive, effective learning environment;
 2. describe the parent's responsibility to support their child's learning environment such as monitoring attendance, homework, extra-curricular activities and excessive television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children;
 3. address the importance of parent/teacher communication on an on-going basis through at least annual parent teacher conferences to discuss achievement and the compact; frequent progress reports to the parents on their child's progress; and reasonable access to the staff and to observe and participate in classroom activities.
- F. Parents of children receiving Title I services must be notified about school parent involvement policies in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. These policies must also be made available to the community.
- G. School parent involvement policies must be evaluated periodically to consider whether they meet the changing needs of parents and the schools.

In order to involve parents in the education of their children and to support a partnership among the school, parents and the community for improving students achievement, the Superintendent and building principals must include provisions in the School District and school parent involvement policies regarding:

- A. assisting parents of children served under Title I in understanding the State's academic content and assessment standards, and in understanding how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve their child's achievement;
- B. providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement;
- C. educating teachers, pupil services personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, about the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and how to build ties between parents and the school;
- D. to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordination and integration of parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal programs;
- E. providing such reasonable support for parent involvement activities as parents may request.

In order to build the School District's capacity for parent involvement, the Superintendent and building principals may also:

- A. involve parents in the development of training for teachers and administrators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- B. pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions, including transportation and child care costs;
- C. train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- D. adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- E. establish a District-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement programs;
- F. develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.

20 U.S.C. 6318 et seq.
34 C.F.R. Part 200 et seq.

Revised 9/15/04

Jefferson Area Local School District

Bylaws & Policies

2111 - PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT

The Board of Education recognizes and values parents and families as children's first teachers and decision-makers in education. The Board believes that student learning is more likely to occur when there is an effective partnership between the school and the student's parents and family. Such a partnership between the home and school and greater involvement of parents in the education of their children generally result in higher academic achievement, improved student behavior, and reduced absenteeism.

In accordance with statute and the State Board of Education Parent and Family Involvement Policy, use of the term "families" is used in order to include children's primary caregivers, who are not their biological parents, such as foster caregivers, grandparents, and other family members.

In cultivating partnerships with families and communities, the Board is committed to the following:

A. Relationships with Families

1. cultivating school environments that are welcoming, supportive, and student-centered; ⁴
2. providing professional development for school staff that helps build partnerships between families and schools; ^{2,3,4}
3. providing family activities that relate to various cultures, languages, practices, and customs, and bridge economic and cultural barriers; ^{2,3}
4. providing coordination, technical support and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing family involvement activities. ³

B. Effective Communication

1. providing information to families to support the proper health, safety, and well-being of their children;
2. providing information to families about school policies, procedures, programs, and activities; ^{2,3,4}
3. promoting regular and open communication between school personnel and students' family members; ^{1,4}
4. communicating with families in a format and language that is understandable, to the extent practicable; ^{2,3}
5. providing information and involving families in monitoring student progress; ³
6. providing families with timely and meaningful information regarding Ohio's academic standards, State and local assessments, and pertinent legal provisions; ^{2,3,4}
7. preparing families to be involved in meaningful discussions and meetings with school staff. ^{2,3,4}

C. Volunteer Opportunities

1. providing volunteer opportunities for families to support their children's school activities; ^{1,3}

2. supporting other needs, to enable families to participate in school-sponsored family involvement events.^{3,4}

D. Learning at Home

1. offering training and resources to help families learn strategies and skills to support at-home learning and success in school;^{1,2,3,4}
2. working with families to establish learning goals and help their children accomplish these goals;¹
3. helping families to provide a school and home environment that encourages learning and extends learning at home.^{1,2,4}

E. Involving Families in Decision Making and Advocacy

1. involving families as partners in the process of school review and continuous improvement planning;^{3,4}
2. involving families in the development of its District-wide parent involvement policy and plan, and distributing the policy and plan to families.^{2,3,4}

F. Collaborating with the Community

1. building constructive partnerships and connecting families with community-based programs and other community resources;^{2,3,4}
2. coordinating and integrating family involvement programs and activities with District initiatives and community-based programs that encourage and support families' participation in their children's education, growth, and development.^{2,3,4}

Implementation

The Superintendent will provide for a comprehensive plan to engage parents, families, and community members in a partnership in support of each student's academic achievement, the District's continuous improvement, and individual school improvement plans. The plan will provide for annual evaluation, with the involvement of parents and families, of the plan's effectiveness and identification of barriers to participation by parents and families. Evaluation findings will be used in the annual review of the Parent and Family Involvement policy and to improve the effectiveness of the District plan.

1Indicates R.C. 3312.472 State Requirements

2Indicates IDEA 2004 Section 650 & 644 parent involvement requirements

3Indicates Title I Section 1118 parent involvement requirements

4Indicates State Board Parent and Family Involvement Policy recommendations

R.C. 3313.472

Adopted 2/24/93

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