

What Must School Districts Do To Promote Parent Involvement?

School districts are responsible for ensuring that Title I schools develop a program to improve student achievement and engage families effectively. The district's Title I application to the state must describe how the district will work with parents to plan activities and develop and apply the program. It also must describe how it will assist teachers and schools in building the capacity to work effectively with families.

1. Develop a written parent involvement policy as part of their Title I plan. This policy must be developed with and agreed upon by parents. This policy should commit the district to:

- involve parents in developing the Title I plan and in the process of school review and improvement;
- provide support necessary to help Title I schools plan and implement effective parent involvement activities to improve student achievement;
- build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent involvement;
- coordinate with parent involvement strategies in other programs, such as Head Start, Even Start, HIPPIY, Parents as Teachers, etc.;
- evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy each year in consultation with parents; and
- involve parents in the activities of Title I schools.

2. Promote family-school partnership and build parent and staff capacity to work together to improve achievement. The policy should describe how the district will support and work with schools to:

- help parents understand the state standards and annual tests;
- inform parents about how they may be involved;
- help parents work with teachers to monitor their children's progress and improve their achievement;
- provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement;
- engage parents in educating teachers, school staff and principals on how to reach out, communicate and work with parents as equal partners; and

- support programs like parent resource centers that encourage and help parents to be more fully involved in their children's education.

The district also *may* establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement. In addition, it *may* engage community-based organizations and businesses in activities that involve parents.

3. Provide technical assistance. If Title I schools needing improvement have problems in implementing the parent involvement requirements, the district must provide technical assistance to identify and address the problems. The district also must inform parents of how they can become involved in improving student achievement at the school.