

## **Section 7000 — Instructional Program**

7175 Parent(s)/Guardian( s) Involvement Policy (Cf. 7170)

7175

### State of Michigan Parent/Guardian Involvement Initiative

The Board strongly encourages and welcomes the involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) in all of the District's educational programs. It is recognized and appreciated that parents/guardians are the "first teachers" of their children, and that their interest and involvement in the education of their children should not diminish once their child enters the schools of the District. Accordingly, the Board directs, by the adoption of this policy, that the administration shall design a program/plan that will encourage parent(s)/guardian(s) participation that may include, but not be limited to: The development and review of instructional materials; input on the ways that the District may better provide parent(s)/guardian(s) with information concerning current laws, regulations, and instructional programs; and District offerings of training programs to instruct parent(s)/guardian(s) how to become more involved in their child's educational

programs.

Pursuant to state law, the Superintendent shall provide a copy of the District's Parental Involvement plan to all parent(s)/guardian(s).<sup>2</sup>

### District Plan

In accordance with the requirement of the No Child Left Behind Act, the River Rouge School District Board of Education encourages parent(s)/guardian(s) participation in all school programs. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) shall be offered substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children by this policy.

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<sup>2</sup> MCL 380.1294 (1) No later than January 1, 2005, the Board of a school District or intermediate school District, or the Board of Directors of a public school academy shall adopt and implement a parent/guardian involvement plan designed to encourage parent/guardian participation. (2) The Board or Board of Directors shall provide a copy of the parent/guardian involvement plan to the parent/guardian of each pupil. The Board of Directors may provide the copy of the policy by including the policy in its student handbook or a similar publication that is distributed to all pupils and parents/guardians. (3) The Board or Board of Directors shall provide a copy of the parent involvement plan to the department upon request by the department.

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The Board directs that the following actions be implemented by the administration to insure compliance with state and federal law and to invite parent(s)/guardian(s) to become involved highly in the education of their children:

- The involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) in the planning, implementation, evaluation, and improvement of District programs/ services through participation on building School Improvement Teams;
- Invitations to parent(s)/guardian(s) to attend at least one annual meeting , with additional meeting opportunities being available as needed, designed to provide information about programs and services, and to solicit parent(s)/guardian(s) suggestions on program development, planning, evaluation and operation;
- Assistance to parent(s)/guardian(s) in understanding Title I and other District programs including the providing of information in a language understandable to the parent(s)/ guardian(s) if practicable;
- Parent(s)/Guardian(s) notification of Title I student selection and criteria for selection;
- Information regarding child's achievement and progress;
- A provision for input by staff at regularly scheduled parent/guardian-teacher conferences and any additional communication as requested by the staff or parent(s)/guardian(s);
- Opportunities to enhance parent(s)/guardian(s) capacity to work with children in the home on school learning;
- Professional development opportunities for teachers and staff to enhance their understanding of effective parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement strategies;
- Ongoing communication between school and parent(s)/guardian(s); and

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- Other appropriate activities (i.e. Family Math Nights, parent(s)/guardian(s) sessions, science, theatre, etc.)

### Written Plans/Policies

The River Rouge School District, as a recipient of Title I funds, hereby adopts the following policy statement regarding the development of a District-wide plan for parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in the development of a Title I plan. Individual buildings may personalize the District plan to meet the particular needs of their school, subject to review by the Superintendent. The Board directs the administration to:

- Involve parent(s)/guardian(s) in the development of the plan;
- Develop a plan that provides for the involvement of parent(s)/guardian(s) in the Title I activities of the school;
- Provide the necessary technical, research, staff and administrative support to schools in the planning and implementing of effective parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
- Integrate and coordinate the plans/policies for parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in Title I programs with parent(s)/guardian(s) involvement in other programs, including but not limited to Head Start;
- Review and evaluate the District's plan annually and to share the results of that review and evaluation with the Board;
- Assure that the policy/plan contains a compact that outlines how parent(s)/guardian(s), the school staff and students will share the responsibility of improved student achievement; and
- Distribute the District plan to parent(s)/guardian(s) of participating children and to the local community.

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The River Rouge School District Board Policy on Parental Involvement also includes all of the required components:

- Develop jointly with parents a written parental involvement policy as part of the Title I plan;
- Describe how the DISTRICT will assist schools in planning and implementing parental involvement activities to improve children's academic achievement;
- Provide parents with tools needed to understand achievement standards and assessment of standards;
- Provide parents with grade-level materials and training to help them support their children's learning at home;
- Provide training for all staff in how to effectively communicate and work with parents as partners;
- Describe how the DISTRICT will support preschool parental involvement in the education of young children;
- Provide support for schools to use effective communication strategies , especially for parents from diverse cultural, socio-economic and language backgrounds;
- Conduct with parents an annual evaluation of effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving academic quality of the schools, revising parental involvement policy, if necessary;
- Convene an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents of children participating in the Title I program are invited;
- Develop with parents of participating students a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, staff and students will develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. Will discuss during parent-teacher conferences, the compact as it relates to the individual child's achievement; and
- Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

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### Migrant Education Program (MEP) Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Involvement

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) of students in the MEP will be involved in, and regularly consulted, about the development, implementation, operation, and evaluation of the program.

### Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Parent(s)/Guardian(s) Involvement

In accordance with federal law, parent(s)/guardian(s) of LEP students will be provided notice regarding their child's placement in and information about the District's LEP program. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) will be notified about their rights regarding program content and participation including the right to choose among programs if alternatives are available. The notice must also include an explanation of the value of the program in terms of academic development, mastery of English, and the achievement of promotion and graduation standards. The notice will also include an explanation of the right to remove the child from an LEP program and to place the child in the regular program. The notice must be in a format that families can comprehend and, if possible, in a language that is understood by the family.

Approved: August 8, 2007

LEGAL REF: 20 USCA 6318 (No Child Left Behind Act); MCL 380.1294 (PA 107 of 2004); 380.1295; MDE Recommended Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy, June 2004.

**Revised: September 20, 2011**

Approved: September 21, 2011