

# Mitchell Public Schools Parental Involvement Policy for Mitchell Elementary

## **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Mitchell Public Schools agree 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.*

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

1. The Mitchell Public Schools 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:

- Parents will be invited to an open house at the beginning of the school year to meet their child's teacher and begin a working relationship with them.
- Parents, students, and teachers will sign a compact 1 time per year that outlines their role in involvement in a quality education.
- Parents and teachers will be given the opportunity to participate in parent teacher conferences twice a year to facilitate communication.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to be involved in committees/organizations to give input to the school.
- Parents and teachers will be encouraged to keep the lines of communication open on a consistent basis through multiple means (ie: student planners, infinite campus, e-mail, phone calls, face to face meetings)
- Parents will be encouraged to volunteer in classroom activities and attend school-wide activities
- An annual parent meeting will be held in the spring of each year during an evening meeting so it is convenient for parents who work. Annual parent meeting will give an overview of the program, discuss building assessment results, and review parent involvement policy. Parents will also be given an opportunity for input about the program

2. The Mitchell Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- Parents are selected to participate in an elementary parent advisory group to give input to building principal as well as for district wide school improvement committee.

3. The Mitchell Public Schools 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:

- School staff will attend regular Title I meetings to be trained in required parental involvement activities.
- School staff will work cooperatively with Title I staff at the Nebraska Department of Education to ensure proper implementation of parental involvement activities.



4. The Mitchell Public schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A under the following other programs:

- Mitchell Public Schools operates Mitchell Tiger Cub Preschool which is a collaborative program with Head Start. This program works to involve parents in their child's education from a young age and facilitates family meetings at least four times per year.

5. The Mitchell Public Schools 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 (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 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 (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- Home language survey will be sent home to identify parents and families with Limited English Proficiencies.
- Written communication will be provided in home language when appropriate.
- Interpreters are provided for parent conferences or any other conversations that require interpretation to facilitate communication.
- Other accommodations are available to meet individual parent needs so that they can be an active member in their child's education upon request to building principal.

The Mitchell Public Schools 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:

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:

- Providing training in different aspects of the school to the elementary parent advisory group or any other group upon request.
- Providing support to parents on how to meet their child's academic needs through support at home upon request.

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:

- Providing opportunities to attend quality staff development through yearly inservices and continued involvement with Educational Service Unit #13.
- Administration meets once a year with ESU #13 to establish priorities for upcoming year and discuss in-service needs.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Operating the Mitchell Tiger Cub Preschool in collaboration with Head Start.
- Working cooperatively with private preschools to facilitate a smooth transition to kindergarten for students and parents.

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the 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:

- All parents are sent a district newsletter in November of each year that tells them the state of the schools report for our district as well happenings at school.
- Notes are sent home to the oldest child in the family about upcoming events and any other pertinent information.
- Notices of meetings and other school events are posted on the marquee outside of the school.



- Parent resource center outside of the school office holds notes and other information for parents as well as a place for parents to gather. A computer screen also displays information for parents.
- School website contains useful information for parents. A Google calendar link is available on the school website for parents to download the school calendar on their mobile device.
- School updates social network site about happenings at school and other announcements.
- Teachers communicate with parents through newsletters or web pages depending on the grade level.
- An interpreter is available as well as certain materials in their home language upon request.

### PART III      ADOPTION

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

Peggy Romshel.

This policy was adopted by the Mitchell Public Schools on 3-14-16 and will be in effect for the period of 2015-16 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before April 1st.



(Signature of Authorized Official)

3-14-16

(Date)