

Revised – HARMONY AREA Approved August 2017

## **HARMONY AREA**

### **TITLE ONE District Parent & Family Engagement Policy**

Recognizing that when families, communities, and schools work together students are more likely to succeed, Harmony Area School District hereby establishes the following district level Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

#### ***Item #1: Written Policy Development Process***

It is the policy of Harmony Area School District to develop, review, revise as needed and implement the Title I required Written Parent & Family Engagement Policy using the following steps in each building:

1. Parent Title 1 Meeting- Parents will be invited to participate in a Title 1 meeting in the fall of the school year.
2. Parental Involvement Input: Parents will be actively solicited to give input to develop or revise the building policy. Input will be provided through meetings, conferences, phone calls, surveys, emails, and other methods as needed throughout the school year.
3. Draft Written Policies: Copies of the written policies will be given to parents (of participating children) for their consideration.
4. Final Written Policies: The final written policies, after being approved by the parents and the school officials, will be printed and disseminated to parents;

#### ***Item #2: Policy Involvement***

It is the policy of Harmony Area School District to:

1. Convene an annual meeting in the fall of each school year for all parents of participating children at which the Title I program will be explained.
2. Provide meetings as per a year-long parental involvement calendar developed jointly by parents and the school.
3. Provide agendas for meetings above that cover:
  - a. Timely information (budget, program reports, etc.)
  - b. School Performance Profiles
  - c. Updates on curriculum and assessment
  - d. Brainstorming sessions for parental input planning and review
  - e. Timely response to parents' suggestions.
4. Provide a process for documenting parent concerns, and suggestions on school-wide plans.

**Item #3: Shared Responsibility for High Student Performance**

It is the policy of the Harmony Area School District to implement an agreed upon School-Parent Student Compact.

**Item #4: Building Capacity for Involvement**

In order to foster effective involvement of parents and support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement – It is the policy of the Harmony Area School District to:

1. Provide assistance to parents in such areas as:
  - Federal education goals and performance standards
  - State Academic Standards
  - State and local assessments
  - Title I law and requirements
  - Monitoring a child's progress
  - Working with educators
  - Participating in decisions related to their child's education
  - Understanding the Harmony Area curriculum and expectations for student achievement at each grade level

**BY**

- Holding various orientation and information meetings throughout the year
  - Providing summaries and explanations of each area and each document mentioned above
  - Providing training in areas as needed
2. Provide materials to parents and referrals to programs that provide:
    - Literacy strategies to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement; and
  3. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in:
    - The value and utility of contributions of parents,
    - How to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners; and
    - Implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between home and school
  4. Coordinate and integrate parent programs and activities with Harmony Area Pre-K Counts program;
  5. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, including:
    - Providing information about opportunities for organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools
    - Encouraging the formation of partnerships between the elementary, middle and secondary schools and local businesses that include a role for parents;

6. Conduct other activities, as appropriate and feasible: (examples: providing parents with online tools to facilitate communication with teachers such as updated directories and providing take home activities for parents to help reinforce specific skills)
7. Ensure, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the homes of participating children in the language used in the homes;
8. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals and other educator through their participation on the district professional development committee;
9. Provide necessary literacy training from funds;
10. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement which might include:
  - Transportation
  - Child Care Costs
11. Arrange meetings at a variety of times to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate in school-related activities;
12. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
13. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

***Item #5: Accessibility***

It is the policy of the Harmony Area School District to provide opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiencies and/or disabilities by:

- Translating the law, rules and other pertinent information to the appropriate language;
- By providing verbal information through audio, video, or personal presentations.