

BOARD POLICY:**Descriptive Code:****LEBA****Parent Involvement Policy****Date: April 3, 2003 Revised : 11-9-06**

The Pickens County Board of Education recognizes that student academic success is directly linked by research to the quantity and quality of parental involvement. In an effort to provide an environment in which all Pickens County students have maximum opportunities to achieve their academic goals, Pickens County Schools will build capacity for parent involvement by working collaboratively with the parents and community. The goals of this collaboration will be to increase academic performance and improve the quality of our schools by involving parents and community members in supporting school programs, expanding quality learning opportunities, reducing or removing barriers to participation, communicating information, and creating and maintaining a relevant parent involvement policy which is in compliance with the No Child Left Behind Act.

PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY PLAN AND SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Parents will be involved in the development of a Local Education Agency (LEA) Plan, through such activities as surveys, interviews, and membership on committees, planning teams, school councils, and school improvement teams. School personnel will strive to create positive experiences for parents by involving them in meaningful activities and decision-making opportunities. This wide array of involvement may include participation in booster clubs, advisory councils, parent/teacher organizations, special interest enrichment programs, cultural literacy projects, student support teams, discipline resolution meetings, and community learning projects. Communications will be written or stated in a language that is clear, concise, and simply expressed. Meeting times will be flexible and scheduled to meet the needs of families. Participation will be encouraged by providing transportation, translation, and childcare when and where feasible.

Information will be distributed regularly to parents about student achievement, state assessments, student expectations, parenting, parent involvement opportunities, and student learning opportunities. Parents will receive information about their children's performance through progress reports, report cards, parent-teacher conferences, and notification of test results. Additional communication may be through newsletters, newspaper articles, local radio and television announcements and features, system website information, materials sent home with students, and presentations at school and civic organization meetings.

COORDINATION, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND SUPPORT

Title I schools will be provided the coordination, framework, technical assistance, materials, supplies, information, and other support necessary for planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs by the system and state Title I personnel. System level personnel will communicate with a variety of agencies to ensure the effective integration of parent involvement strategies. Resources will be maximized by coordinating opportunities for participation. Community relationships will be established and maintained for the purposes of improving student achievement, parent involvement, family literacy, and parenting support services.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The LEA and the schools will work jointly to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement. They shall to the extent feasible:

1. assist parents in understanding standards, assessments, ways to monitor a student's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. provide parents support in areas such as literacy training and use of technology, for the purposes of improving their children's achievement and fostering parental involvement;
3. educate all school personnel (with the assistance of parents when appropriate) in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in the importance of working together to build ties between parents and the school in an equal partnership;
4. coordinate and integrate school and system parent involvement programs with programs offered through other agencies;
5. communicate with parents in a format and language parents can readily understand;
6. provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and migratory children;
7. inform parents of the existence of any parent information and resource centers established by the state of Georgia.

The school and LEA may:

1. involve parents in training educators to improve effectiveness of the training;
2. provide literacy training from parent involvement funds after other avenues of funding for that purpose have been exhausted;
3. pay reasonable expenses, such as child care and transportation, to enable parents to participate in school related meetings and training;
4. train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
5. arrange school meetings and/or in-home conferences in order to maximize participation;
6. implement model approaches to improve parent involvement;
7. establish a system-wide parent involvement advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement;
8. develop roles for community organizations and businesses to enhance the parent involvement program;
9. provide other reasonable support for parental involvement as may be requested by parents.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

In the spring of each year an annual evaluation of the parent involvement program will be conducted. The evaluation will seek to identify the parent involvement program successes, on-going needs, barriers to participation, and impact on student achievement. Information will be gathered through a variety of methods which may include surveys, interviews, and advisory council input. The results will be used to assess the effectiveness of existing parent involvement plans and policies, form plans for the following year, secure resources for programs and activities, and direct policy changes as needed.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

Funds for the Pickens County Parent Involvement program will be allocated according to the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act.

SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Each school served under Title I will establish a parental involvement policy consistent with the system policy. It will be jointly developed with and distributed to parents of participating students under the leadership of the principal. To the extent feasible, it will be in a language the parents can understand. This policy will be available to the public and revised as needed.

Each school will comply with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act according to the following guidelines:

1. hold annual meetings at a convenient time to inform parents about the policy and the right of the parents to be involved;
2. offer a flexible number of parental involvement activities at different times and, when feasible and appropriate, provide childcare, transportation, and home visit services as needed;
3. involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in reviewing and improving plans and policies;
4. provide parents of participating children timely information about the No Child Left Behind Act programs, descriptions, and explanations of the schools' curriculum, assessments, expectations, and opportunities for regular meetings if requested by parents.

SCHOOL/PARENT COMPACT

Each school served under Title I shall jointly develop with parents a compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement and how this partnership will support students to achieve the state's high standards. The compact shall:

1. describe the school's responsibility to provide quality instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet academic achievement standards;
2. describe the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning by monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their children's classrooms; participating in decisions about their children's education; and encouraging positive use of extracurricular time;
3. address the importance of on-going communication between teachers and parents by including at minimum an annual parent-teacher conference to discuss the compact, sending parents reports of students' progress, and providing reasonable access to staff and opportunities for parental participation and observation.

COMPLIANCE

All parent involvement activities supported with funds allocated under the No Child Left Behind Act will be in compliance with state and federal guidelines and regulations.

STATE REF.:

**LEGAL REF.: Public law 107-110, PART A, Subpart 1
Sections 1112, 1116, and 1118
Board of Education of Pickens County**