

HANOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
2006-2007 Title 1 District Parental Involvement Policy

PURPOSE

The Hanover Area School District is committed to the belief that all students can learn and acknowledges that schools and parents share a commitment to the educational success of children. The district believes that the education of students is a joint responsibility shared with parents. To insure that the best interests of each student are served in the educational process, the district maintains a strong program of communication between home and school must be maintained. The district believes that the cooperation of school and home is a vital component in the growth and education of the whole child.

DEFINITION OF PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Parent Involvement Policy is defined as an ongoing process that encourages the participation of Title 1 parents in meeting their basic obligation as a child's first educator. The district's policy will promote a clear dialogue between home and school and support parents as leaders and decision-makers concerning the education of their children at all levels. The district's Parent Involvement Policy will involve parents and educators in the establishment of educational goals and programs of the district's schools.

DISTRICT PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

In accordance with Title 1 Part A developed under section 1112 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Hanover Area School District will ensure that parents play an integral role in assisting their children's learning by becoming actively involved in the decision making of their children's education. The district will involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA, and in the review and improvement process under section 1116 of the ESEA as outlined in the following guidelines of the district's Title 1 Parent Involvement Policy:

The Hanover Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the development of its district-wide parental involvement plan:

1. At an annual Title 1 meeting the Parent Involvement Policy will be discussed with parents from each of the Title 1 schools. Parents will meet with the district reading supervisor and Title I specialist(s) within their school to plan, review and improve the present Parent Involvement Policy designed for the district's schools. Suggestions and concerns from parents will be addressed.

The Hanover Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

2. At the annual meeting parents will be informed of current academic activities implemented within the district's Title 1 program. Parents can review, critique and make suggestions to be incorporated into the program. The district will also present to the parents an annual assessment of the academic progress of each Title 1 participating school as to whether the schools is making adequate yearly progress according to the state guidelines. This review will provide information that each school needs to refine the program of instruction to enable children to meet the state's challenging performance standards.

The Hanover Area School District will provide the following necessary coordination activities to assist Title 1 schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student achievement as required in section 1118 of the ESEA:

3. The district will provide opportunities for parents to receive technical assistance in technology classes offered within the district. The district's web site will also provide access to each Title I school building and staff, as well as a Title I main page. A Parent-Student Handbook will be distributed to parents in the beginning of the school year to help maintain positive communication between home and school.
4. The district will inform parents of training workshops and conferences designed for them to work with their child at home. Workshop topics at these conferences focus on helping parents develop an awareness of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) law and how to work with their children at home to achieve academic standards. The district will pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
5. Other parental activities within the district will include Parent-Teacher Organizations, Parent Volunteer Programs, Back to School Night, Parent/Teacher Conferences, parent training workshops, Family Nights and school book distributions and fairs where parents can assist and participate. Parents will be encouraged to become guest readers for classrooms within the district and will be encouraged to attend these activities and training sessions at the school.

The Hanover Area School District will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school in becoming knowledgeable of the following topics which will be discussed and explained in an understandable format:

- State's Academic Standards/Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content
- State's performance standards (Advanced, Proficient, Basic, Below Basic)
- District's Reading Curriculum
- Monitoring of children's progress
- Working with educators to improve the performance of their child at home
- Title 1 program information and guidelines

The Hanover Area School District will coordinate Title 1 parent involvement activities with other educational parental activities as stated below:

5. The district will, to an extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and other educational programs. The district will encourage and support a cooperative on-going dialogue among parents of children who attend educational programs such as Head Start.

The Hanover Area School district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings and other activities are sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format:

6. An annual evaluation of the Title 1's program effectiveness will be conducted through a survey of the Title 1 parents. The Home-School Involvement Compact, will be explained in detail as to how parents, staff and students will share responsibility for improved student achievement. These compacts will be signed by the Title I specialist, parent/caregiver, and student. Other communications between school and parents will include progress reports, memos and letters, phone conversations, E-mail communications and parent group meetings as needed.

The Hanover Area School District will use the findings of the Title 1 program evaluation survey to improve instruction in the following manner:

7. The district will use the findings from the Title 1 annual evaluation survey to plan for the next school year's Title 1 program. Targeted strategies to increase parental/community involvement and improve Title 1 students academic achievement will be jointly developed and implemented in the Parent Involvement Policy.

ADOPTION

Hanover Area School District's 2006-2007 District-Wide Parent Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with parents/caregivers of children participating in Title I Programs. The policy will be discussed, updated, and revised as needed on an annual basis.