

## LEHIGHTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

### Title I School Parent Involvement Policy

Lehighton Area Elementary School  
School Parent (public & non-public) Involvement Policy

#### Purpose

In addition to the district's Parent Involvement Policy, there will also be a School Parent Involvement Policy. It is important that each participating Title I school jointly-develop and agree upon a School Involvement Policy that will be distributed to parents of Title I children. The School Parental Involvement Policy will describe the means for carrying out the guidelines of the policy through the participating of all Title I parents. The jointly developed policy will be updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

The involvement of parents should not be limited to attendance at PTO meetings or volunteering at school. What parents do at home to improve their children's academic achievement is equally important. The school values parents' educational effort in assisting with the education of their children both at home and at school.

#### Guidelines for School Parent Involvement

1. The Lehighton Area Elementary School will involve parents in the planning, reviewing, and improving of the Parent Involvement Policy at the annual Title meeting or a scheduled timely meeting for the school. The following information will be provided and discussed with the parents of participating children:
  - Timely information about the Title I Program
  - School performance profiles
  - Individual student assessment results
  - A description and explanation of the reading and math curriculum
  - Opportunities for regular meetings
  - Timely responses to concerns expressed by parents
  - Shared responsibilities for high student performance
  - Home School Involvement Compact
  - Notification of students being tested in the beginning of the school year who fall below levels of STAR Renaissance and PSSA assessments.
2. The Lehighton Area Elementary School will ensure that any information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to all parents,(public and non-public) since we are School-Wide in an understandable format and in a timely manner. All Title I parents will be informed of any scheduled conferences and training workshops which would

provide them with educational strategies to help improve the academic achievement of their children.

3. The Lehigh Area Elementary School and parents, (public and non-public) may attend an annual meeting where the following Title I guidelines will be presented:
  - Inform parents of the district's participation in the Title I Federal Program and explain the requirements of the program and the rights of the parents to be involved in the Title I Program.
  - Provide parents with information concerning why their child was recommended as needing Title I services with a Reading specialist and/or math teacher.
  - Inform parents about the district's letter which is sent to parents concerning the assurance that all teachers who have been assigned to their children are highly qualified.
  - Recommend to the parents of all children, since we are School-Wide, how they can become involved with the Parent Advisory Council if they so desire.
  - Inform parents of any on-going training workshops and conferences which would be in their best interest to attend.
  - Inform parents of the annual three day conference sponsored and funded by the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC).
4. The Lehigh Area Elementary School will provide opportunities for all parents to make suggestions and appropriate decisions concerning their children's education. Parents can request to convene a Title I school meeting when necessary to formulate decision-making suggestions or ideas related to the education of their children. This can also take place at parent conferences scheduled throughout the year.
5. The Lehigh Area Elementary School will utilize set-aside Title I funds in the program's budget to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities including transportation, registration and any other expenses incurred for parent training sessions or school related meetings.
6. The Lehigh Area Elementary School shall provide parents when asked, the following information concerning the district's academic curriculum and assessments administered within the school:
  - Parents will be informed of the school's curriculum and the forms of academic assessment used to measure their children's progress and the proficiency levels that their children are expected to meet.

- Parents will receive from the district an individual student report about the performance of their children on the state assessment test in reading, math, and other assessments used to diagnose their children's proficiency in reading and /or math.
  - Parents will receive notification in the beginning of the school year of diagnostic testing being administered to students who fall below the proficiency levels on the STAR Renaissance Assessment, CDT's or the state PSSA test.
7. The Lehigh Area Elementary School shall provide with assistance to all parents, (public and non-public) when asked an understanding of the state's academic standards in the following manner:
- Parents can be provided with an overview of the state Assessment Anchors and Eligible Content. These encompass the Pennsylvania Academic Standards for reading and math and the academic achievements that students are expected to meet.
  - Parents shall be informed as to how they can help monitor their children's progress with suggested activities they can do at home with their children to improve the achievement level of their children.
  - Parents will have an opportunity to examine a sample of the PSSA test and note the reading and math skills being assessed. The rubric used to score their children's assessed open-ended questions in the test will be reviewed and explained in an understandable format.
8. The Lehigh Area Elementary School was involved in a jointly-developed Teacher/Parent/School Involvement Compact which outlines how parents, school staff and students will share in the responsibility for improved academic achievement within the Title I program. The compact will be distributed in the beginning of the school year and signed by all parties. Copies of the signed compact will be kept on file in the school.
9. The Lehigh Area Elementary School may provide all parents, (public and non-public) with instructional strategies, parent workshops, parent conferences, and training necessary to help improve their children's academic achievement when working with them at home.
10. The Lehigh Area Elementary School will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities would be sent to all parents, (public and non-public) since we are a School-Wide Title I program, in an understandable format and in a timely manner. Brochures outlining the Title I program guidelines, ESSA and other pamphlets and handouts, which will provide parents with research-based strategies to improve their children's academic achievement will also be made available.

#### Use of Funds

The Lehigh Area School District reserves are \$500,000.00 or more and is required to set aside 1%, funds shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, including not less than one of the following:

- Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for Lehigh Area School District and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members. (*ESSA, Section 1116 (3)(D)(ii)*).
- Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school. (*ESSA, Section 1116 (3)(D)(ii)*).
- Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members (*ESSA, Section 1116 (3)(D)(ii)*).
- Collaborating, or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate with, community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement (*ESSA, Section 1116 (3)(D)(iv)*).
- Engaging in any other activities and strategies that Lehigh Area School District determines are appropriate and consistent with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116 (3)(D)(v)*).

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