

# **EAST RAMAPO CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## ***TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY***

### **1. *Statement of Purpose***

The East Ramapo Central School District is committed to the goal of providing quality education for each of our students. To this end, it is important to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. The benefits are universal when school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role in their child's education, and their support is critical to their child's success.

The District's goals for students are distributed to all parents with the expectation that all students will work toward these goals. It is recognized that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program. A comprehensive understanding by parents of the services being provided and a parent's cooperation and engagement in the process will help insure that every child in our District will excel academically and reach their potential.

### **2. *Parental Involvement in Developing Policy***

An Advisory Committee consisting of parents, teachers, and administrators has developed our District's Parental Involvement Policy. The Advisory

Committee was chosen from volunteers in each school attendance area. Special attention was given to recruiting parents of children in the Title I program. The District provides the coordination, technical assistance and necessary support to assist participating schools in the planning and implementation of effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The District is committed to the continuing education of our staff in relation to the importance and value of involving parents, and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in developing parent involvement programs and building ties between parents and the school.

### ***3. Annual Meeting for Title I Parents***

At the annual meeting for Title I parents, information is provided regarding Title I guidelines and how they differ from the previous years' program in the school. Parents are given copies of the District's Parental Involvement Policy and are offered a chance to become involved in revising that policy as needed. The annual meeting is scheduled with the convenience of parents in mind. Parents are sent written notices about the meeting times and dates.

### ***4. School-Parent Compact***

According to Title I regulations, each school must share responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with the parents of children participating in the program. These

compacts must outline how parents, staff, and students will share in the responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Student responsibilities may vary by grade level. All parents of Title I students in East Ramapo receive the compact from their child's school outlining the responsibilities of teachers, parents, and students. Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children, before *both* parties sign it.

#### **5. *Types of Parental Involvement***

Parents can become involved in their child's education in many ways. The school district values both the at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Parents may choose to read to their children, talk to them at mealtimes, or write a story with them. The aforementioned activities are as important as volunteering at the school and serving on advisory committees. These varied activities will support the endeavor towards success.

#### **6. *Matching Programs to the Needs of the Community***

Each year, the school district will engage in a comprehensive school and district-wide needs assessment to help identify the most essential needs of parents and children in our community. Title I programs will be developed or modified based on the results of the needs assessment. The District encourages the input of administrators, teachers, parents and community-based organizations to help identify the areas of greatest concern.

## **7. *Staff-Parent Communication***

Communication with parents will be continuous using a variety of methods including newsletters, mailings, web site, telephone and individual conferences. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher when concerns arise. Continuous efforts are made to improve home-school communication. Activities to foster the parent-school relationship are listed in each school's action plan (Factors Affecting Student Achievement).

## **8. *Evaluation***

A collaborative of school administrators and faculty in each building develops an action plan in which goals for parental involvement are included. These goals are reviewed at the end of each school year.

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parental Involvement Program, with a request for parental input. The evaluation will gauge the success of parent involvement activities and help identify problem areas in each school. The school will modify its outreach and/or program(s) based on the outcome of the evaluation.

This commitment to family and community involvement has been supported by the Board of Education of the East Ramapo Central School District. The parental involvement programs will be supervised by the individual school administrators, Office of Elementary Education, and Office of Funded Programs.