

Cole County R-I Elementary

School, Parent, and Family Engagement Policy

At Cole County R-I Elementary, the Title I.A program is implemented school-wide to provide a quality education to every child in the district. This school, parent, and family engagement policy is developed jointly with, distributed to, and agreed on with parents of participating children.

Policy Involvement

All parents are invited to attend the annual Title I parent meeting in person or through Zoom, and the recorded meeting is also posted on the Title I teacher page after the meeting. Parents are provided an agenda that reflects the purposes of the meeting: to inform parents of their school's participation in the Title I.A program, to explain the requirements of Title I.A, and to explain the right for parents to be involved.

At the annual Title I parent meeting, parents are given the school, parent, and family engagement policy as part of the Title I Handbook. After brief review of the policy, parents are asked to review the Parent-Student-Learning Compact. Parents are asked to take the compact home to discuss with their child and then sign and return the compact to school. Parents who do not attend the meeting receive the compact as part of the Title I handbook that is sent home with their child and are asked to review, sign, and return it to school. If no compact is returned prior to fall parent/teacher conferences, the parent is given another copy during the conference and is asked to sign and return it.

All parents within the school district will be invited to volunteer to serve on the Advisory Committee, which is to meet twice during the school year to review the program plan documents and conduct the annual review of the program. During the fall Title I parent meeting, parents are encouraged to share any questions, suggestions, or input regarding the program. At the end of the school year, all parents are asked to complete a questionnaire to share their opinions regarding the program.

Once Title I students have been identified, the parents are sent a notification in a letter stating that their student is eligible for Title I services and are encouraged to attend the parent meeting. All families within the district are invited to the Title I meeting to explain the Title I program and its services. The Title I handbook and Parent-Student Compact are also made available to all parents at the parent meeting. This agreement outlines how parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Parents on the school's Advisory Committee will be involved in designing this agreement. Parents will receive and be urged to discuss the agreement with their children before signing it and having their children sign it.

During the Title I parent meeting, Title I teachers and administrators will describe the curriculum used in the Title I programs to address the needs of students. Information will be given about the universal screening assessments used by our district (iReady diagnostics, Developmental Reading Assessment, etc.) and how the scores are interpreted and used to match instruction to student needs. Title I teachers will explain the MAP achievement levels during the parent meeting, and classroom teachers will also provide explanation of the achievement levels at fall parent/teacher conferences when the students' MAP reports are given to parents.

Shared Responsibility for High Student Achievement

The School-Parent Compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. This compact is developed jointly with parents of Title I.A served children.

The school-parent compact states that parents are responsible for providing support, positive attitude, and a quiet place/time to do schoolwork. Parents should encourage children to complete schoolwork, as well as ensure that their children get adequate sleep, a healthy diet, and arrive at school on time. Parents should discuss their child's learning with their child and communicate with teachers regularly, and parents should spend time reading with their child at home and start an ongoing home library for their child.

The school-parent compact explains that the Title I teachers will be aware of student needs and teach necessary concepts to the students, communicating regularly with the parents on their child's progress. It also states that the school is responsible for creating a safe, positive, healthy learning environment. Teachers are responsible for demonstrating the importance of reading, math, and learning, as well as relating reading and math to everyday life. Administrators are responsible for welcoming parental involvement, supporting the Title I programs, and being knowledgeable about the program's requirements and teachers' techniques/materials.

The compact states that parent-teacher conferences will be held twice each year, during which the compact will be discussed. It also outlines ways teachers will communicate student progress and lists ways to contact teachers. In addition, the compact explains volunteer opportunities and seeks to ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family and school staff.

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Cole County R-I Elementary provides assistance to parents in understanding the Missouri Learning Standards, The Missouri Assessment Program, local assessments, how to monitor a child's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

During the Title I parent meeting, Title I teachers will give brief overviews of MAP, universal screening assessments, and progress monitoring procedures. Sample reports and parent notes will be shared to help parents recognize and understand their child's scores and progress. Parents will be given ideas on how to work with teachers to improve their child's achievement during the parent meeting, at parent-teacher conferences, and at Title I Family Night activities.

Each year, two Family Night events will be held where parents attend with their child to participate in engaging learning activities. Title I teachers and other staff will present information to parents at these events regarding how to help their child improve academic achievement. Handouts and/or take-home materials will be provided to parents at these events. Parents also receive information and materials regarding how to help their child with their child's specific needs during parent/teacher conferences in both fall and spring, including how to utilize subscriptions to online programs that can be accessed at home, such as iReady, Study Island, or Reading Eggs.

Cole County R-I educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.

During our back-to-school teacher workdays, administrators will provide professional development that includes information about connecting with families of our students and fostering open communication with parents. Use of tools like Class Dojo, Remind app, newsletters, email, and text alerts will be explained and encouraged, and strategies for parent contact phone calls will be discussed.

To encourage parents to participate in their child's education, Title I teachers will provide information to parents regarding resources available to our community that would support academic achievement, as those teachers become aware of these opportunities. The Missouri River Regional Library's bookmobile schedule and other events such as Summer Reading Programs can be shared with parents. Participation in the Parents as Teachers program is encouraged, and teachers will be asked to refer any families with preschool children in the community to participate in this program.

Optional Additional Resources

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Cole R-I Elementary provides necessary literacy training from Title I funds if other funding has been exhausted. In addition, Cole R-I establishes a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of the Title I program, Cole R-I Elementary takes all practical steps to provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members, including parents with limited English proficiency, those with disabilities, and those of migratory children. Best efforts are made to ensure that information and school reports are provided in a format and language that parents understand.