

### **Policy: Parental Involvement**

It shall be the policy of the Columbus Municipal School District (CMSD) to develop jointly with parents a policy, which outlines the minimum requirements, for parental involvement to be used at sites across the district. This policy shall be distributed to parents via the Student Handbook, which is distributed to all students at the beginning of each year. This policy will be distributed to and discussed with staff at the beginning of each school year. Further, this policy will be amended as needed according to the requirements of current federal law.

### WRITTEN CONTRACTS:

Each school participating in Title I will provide a parent compact outlining the parents' and school's roles in the successful operation of the program. The type of compact used at each site will have been approved by the site's School Planning Team.

At the beginning of each school year, a letter will be sent to the parents of each Title I eligible child. This letter will describe the program offered at the site, provide details about the curriculum in use of the school, and provide information regarding the types of assessment used to measure student progress, levels of proficiency students are expected to meet.

### DISTRICT RESPONSIBILITIES

The coordination and integration of funds and programs, the provision of technical assistance and other support, the identification of barriers to greater parental participation, and the annual evaluation of program content and effectiveness will be the responsibility of the district. This coordination will extend to agencies and organization such as Head Start, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool programs.

School sites will convene regular meetings at times convenient to parents throughout the school year to discuss the program's operation and site needs. The School Planning Team at each site will determine the frequency of the meetings.

Each school site will convene an annual meeting, at a time convenient to parents of participating children, to inform them of the district's participation and their right to be involved in program development.

#### Use of Funds

Each school site will reserve, and utilize yearly, at least one percent (1%) of its total allocation for parental involvement activities. These funds may be used for, but may not be limited to, family literacy development, transportation, childcare, parenting skills development, etc.

Funds will be used to meet, in order of priority, the identified needs of the sites.

### PARENTAL COMMENTS

Non-satisfactory written parental comments from parents of participating children shall be submitted to the LEA's district level office from each site to be forwarded to the state educational agency (SEA).

Responses to written unsatisfactory parental comments will occur within one week of the written comment's receipt. These responses will originate from the site administrator (with a copy to the LEA office) or from the LEA office, if appropriate.

### ACCESSIBILITY

CMSD, to the extent possible, will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with disabilities, including providing information and school profiles in a language and form such parents understand.

SOURCE: Columbus Municipal School District, Columbus, Mississippi LEGAL REF: Improving