

# **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

Lanier County Middle School

Lakeland, Georgia

Revised Spring 2009

*The Lanier County School System recognizes that greater family involvement is crucial if our students are to learn more, to achieve higher academic standards, and to succeed in a global economy. It is the intent of all parent involvement activities in the Lanier County schools to encourage and support the efforts of home, school, and community in improving learning opportunities of all children. In this effort the Title I Coordinator conducts a Parent Survey and Evaluation in the Spring of each year. Additional activities held periodically during the school year may include, but are not limited to the following:*

## **1. Involve parents under the joint development of the LEA Plan under section 1112:**

The Title I Director involves parents of Lanier County students in the development of the LEA Plan by requesting input. Parents offer ideas and suggestions in writing the local Title I Plan. The parent input comes from parent surveys, groups of parents, School Councils, as well as individual interviews with parents.

## **2. Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116:**

The Title I Director makes available to parents the results of state assessments and the system's performance on those assessments. Parents are encouraged to offer suggestions of improvement when assessments are not meeting standards as set by the state. Assessment results are made available at local board meetings which are open to the public, presented in the local newspapers, and presented in newsletters to parents. Also parents are notified of adequate yearly progress (AYP) and have opportunities for input into the school improvement plan.

## **3. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and the other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

The administration of Lanier County Middle School assists staff and parent groups at the middle school to provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs. The coordinator and administration will provide assistance to the school by: meeting with school parent advisory groups to plan programs;

coordinate volunteers for school events, assist in any parent related activities and transition of information to languages other than English when such services relate to the parent involvement.

**4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title 1, Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs.**

Parental involvement activities are a coordinated effort among Title I, Lanier Commission for Children Youth and Families, Special Education, Lanier County Schools Social Workers, Lanier County Public Library, Certified Literacy Community Partners Steering Committee, and Pre-K whenever appropriate and feasible. Appropriate representatives of these agencies meet at the beginning of the school year to plan and implement joint parental involvement activities. This year's system activities will include a Community Red Ribbon Week Kickoff; PASS program activities, Lunch and Learn sessions, and various activities coordinated at the elementary school for specific grade levels.

**5. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy.**

An annual survey is administered in the spring of the year to determine the effectiveness of the program. Parents, community, and school personnel are asked to review the parental involvement goals established for the year and decide which areas, if any, were not met. Barriers to parent participation such as economic disadvantages, disability, limited English proficiency or other barriers are identified. The Title I Director will monitor the writing and implementation of the Parent/School Policies for the middle school.

**6. Use the findings of the evaluations in designing strategies for school improvement and revising, if necessary, the LEA Parental Involvement Policy and School Parental Involvement Policies.**

Following the annual review of the policy, parents, community and school personnel will meet to plan and revise the policy as needed to improve parent participation.

**7. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents and community, each LEA shall provide assistance to participating parents in various areas.**

To assist parents in understanding various areas of their student's education a monthly middle school calendar/newsletter is sent home to parents. Each newsletter contains parenting tips and/or an explanation of one major area of education. The following areas of education are featured in the monthly newsletters sent home with each student: components of a schoolwide program

and requirements of Title I, Part A; school improvement and corrective action process; National Education goals; Adult Literacy Opportunities available in the community; ways parents can monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the performance standards and state and local assessments.

**8. Provide materials and training such as: a) Coordinating necessary literacy training from other sources to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement; b) Training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement.**

Title I Parent Involvement promotes literacy training for parents through collaborative efforts with other school system and community agencies by providing workshops and written information throughout the year. Lunch and Learn activities are coordinated through the Parent Resource Center located at the elementary school. Resources such as presentations and/or workshops are available upon request on the following areas: Successful Parent-Teacher Conferences, Basic Computer Skills (Internet Resources, Word Processing), and Helping Students Succeed with Homework.

**9. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, on the contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between home and school.**

Educators and parents are given the opportunity to participate in staff development training during the year to develop an understanding of the value of parental involvement and how schools can reach out to parents and how parents can become partners with the school.

**10. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, including providing information about opportunities for organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools, and encouraging the formation of partnerships between elementary, middle, and secondary schools and local businesses that include a role for parents.**

The Lanier County Schools Title I Director and building level administrators communicate with public groups including community club meetings for announcements and recognition of parents, students and educators. The building level administration and teachers contribute articles dealing with parenting and other education issues and activities to *The Lanier County News*, local newspaper. Businesses are given the opportunity to contribute not only monetarily, but of their time and experience to the educational system.

Businesses are encouraged to release employees to participate in volunteer activities at the school.

**11. Conduct other activities such as parent resource centers and opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues beginning at the birth of a child, that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children.**

The Parent Resource Center located on the elementary school campus is open for parents to check out materials and receive assistance in helping their child. Parenting classes are made available for parents regarding issues for babies, toddlers, pre-schoolers, elementary, and middle school students. The goal is to make parents partners in the education of their children.

**12. Ensure, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the homes of participating children in the language used in the homes.**

The Title I Coordinator ensures that notes are sent home to parents with relevant information about school and parent programs. Announcements are also sent to the local newspaper about activities. To the extent possible, all information is relayed to parents in the language used in the home.