

**Mahanoy Area Elementary School**  
**Schoolwide Title I Parent Involvement Policy**

**PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Mahanoy Area School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—*

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

- [For States where a Parental Information and Resource Center is established] The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

**PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Mahanoy Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - a.) *Parents are invited from our PTO (Parent/Teacher Organization) as well as the parents who attend the Title I breakfast or our Family Reading Nights are given the opportunity to share ideas to either the principals or Federal Programs Coordinator on the development of district wide parental plan.*
  - b.) *Complete parent surveys and return them to school.*

2. The Mahanoy Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - a.) *A Title I Breakfast is held the second week of school to review school policy and make improvements with parent input taken into consideration.*
  
3. The Mahanoy Area School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - a.) *Parent – Teacher Conferences conducted after first marking period.*
  - b.) *Meet the Teacher*
  - c.) *Open House in the Middle/High schools*
  - d.) *School Website*
  - e.) *Family Reading Nights*
  - f.) *Title I Breakfast*
  - g.) *“Friday Folder” information provided to parents each week including all assessment tests, observations, and suggestions.*
  - h.) *“Home – School Connection” from our “Trophies” Reading Series.*
  - i.) *Collaboration through emails as all teachers emails are accessible through School book and the Website.*
  - j.) *Referral to IST Support when necessary.*
  - k.) *The News Bearer*
  - l.) *Connect ED*

The Mahanoy Area School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs], by:

- a.) *Inviting parents of all Head Start Students to Our “Family Reading Night” programs.*
  - b.) *Inviting all Head Start Students, Teachers and Parents to the “Kindergarten in a Nutshell” Program.*
  - c.) *Inviting all Head Start parents whose children have IEPs to meet with their child’s Kindergarten teacher at the end of their Head Start year.*
5. The Mahanoy Area School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its

Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

*a.) A discussion will be conducted during one of our PTO Meetings regarding the present policy. The Federal Programs Coordinator along with the principal, PTO Presidents and parents will review item by item. Suggestions from participants will be welcomed and recorded. We will then vote on the suggested changes and include them in the revised parent policy.*

1. The Mahanoy Area School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

*a.) Parents receive informative bulletins on the back of our monthly "News Bearer" that also address most of these areas.*

*b.) Title I Parent Resource Center Order Form*

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- a.) *Title I Resource Center forms will be sent home for the parents to order booklets concerning an array of literature that they may read which will aide in raising their child's academic achievement.*
- b.) *BookFLIX – parents will have access from home on various reading lessons.*
- c.) *READ 180 A Scholastic reading program which provides reading instruction at home.*

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- a.) *opening our schools to parents for such activities as “Meet the Teacher Night, Parent - Teacher Conferences, Family Reading Night,*
- b.) *weekly parent bulletins called “Friday Folders,”*
- c.) *telephone conferences*
- d.) *IST meeting,*
- e.) *Homework Assignment notebooks,*
- f.) *School Website*
- g.) *School Book*
- h.) *collaboration through emails as all teachers emails are accessible through school book and the school's website*

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- a.) *invite parents of Head Start students to all “Family Reading Night” activities, “Kindergarten in a Nutshell,” Kindergarten Orientation,” meet with parents whose child has an IEP prior to their entrance into Kindergarten and review IEP while making suggestions to have parents work with their child over the summer.*

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

*a.) parents receive all information well in advance of any event, reminders are also sent home in a flier format, and many times parents are also telephoned one day prior to the event to remind them that they are attending. Parents are always welcome to call/ email with any questions.*

**PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**NOTE:** The District wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

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**PART IV. ADOPTION**

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by **Donna M. Zelonis**.

This policy was adopted by the Mahanoy Area School District on 3/24/2011 and will be in effect for the period of one year.

Joel Sheen  
(Signature of Authorized Official)  
3/29/11  
(Date)