

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT**

*The Board of Trustees of the Goleta Union School District recognizes that parent/guardian involvement and support in the education of children are an integral part of achieving academic success and developing capable citizens, and that schools and parents/guardians must work together as knowledgeable partners to educate all students effectively. In order to assure parent/guardian/school collaboration the Board of Trustees is committed to;*

- *including parents/guardians as partners in the education of their children;*
- *establishing and maintaining effective two-way communication with all parents/guardians at both school and district office levels;*
- *encouraging the development of programs to help parents/guardians acquire parenting skills;*
- *providing parents/guardians with the information and techniques to enable them to assist their children with learning at home;*
- *developing strategies and programmatic structures to enable parents/guardians to directly participate in their children's education through:*
  - *involvement in classroom activities*
  - *school advisory groups and parent/guardian support organizations;*
- *fostering an environment at each school that welcomes parents/guardians as active participants in their children's education;*
- *recognizing differences in the needs and interests between schools and between parents/guardians in each school.*

**Meetings and Special Programs**

1. District Meetings

- a. Published school calendars shall list the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board of Trustees. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to address the Board on matters of interest or concern.
- b. A parent/guardian representative from each school shall form the core membership on the District Advisory Committee. The function of this committee is to provide a forum for sharing educational ideas, successes, and concerns; to explore methods of greater involvement of the entire community in the educational process; to access program or problem areas of district-wide importance; and to make recommendations to the superintendent as appropriate.
- c. Meetings for the parents/guardians of students served by the Title I program will be held on a regularly-scheduled basis. These meetings will be held for the purposes of education, information dissemination, and input into the school program.

- d. Consultation with parents/guardians on district committees shall include opportunities to advise the district as it develops the Local Educational Agency Plan (LEAP) and in the process of school review and improvement. Parent/guardian input regarding the LEAP and the school review and improvement process shall be solicited annually at meetings of the District Advisory Committee, the Compensatory Education District Advisory Committee, and the District English Learner Advisory Committee.
2. School Site Meetings and Committees
    - a. Each school shall hold open houses, back-to-school nights, and parent/guardian organization meetings where the school's philosophy, mission, opportunities for adult participation, the core curriculum, and supplemental instruction are discussed.
    - b. An annual meeting in the fall at each Title I project school shall be held to inform parents/guardians about the goals, objectives, and program services for eligible students. A Title I program review in the spring shall be held to discuss progress toward meeting those goals and objectives.
    - c. Every reasonable effort shall be made to insure that the composition of school committees reflects the population characteristics of the individual schools.
    - d. School Site Council members shall vote on the school site plan and categorical budget. All parents/guardians are welcome to give input at meetings of the Council.
    - e. Parent/guardian organizations, such as the Parent-Teacher Association, will be encouraged to provide opportunities for adult education and participation.
    - f. Every effort shall be made to promote equal access and involvement at schools with significant bilingual populations by providing translations of activities and materials for parents/guardians who are limited-English proficient.
  3. Meetings with Certificated Personnel
    - a. Parents/guardians or teacher-initiated conferences to discuss student progress and/or methods to improve student achievement shall be a part of the educational program at all schools.
    - b. During conferences, school personnel may assist parents/guardians with gaining access to community and support services for families and children.

**Instruction**

BP 6020(c)

4. School Site Activities
  - a. Parents/guardians shall have reasonable opportunities to observe and volunteer in classrooms in accordance with school visitation procedures.
  - b. Activities designed to help parents understand school programs and services shall be a part of school presentations.

**Written and Electronic Communications Between the School and Home**

1. Parents/guardians who are unable to attend school events, activities, or meetings shall be encouraged to telephone, Email, and/or write school for information.
2. Materials such as school newsletters, classroom newsletters, and general announcements that provide parents/guardians with information about their school will be sent home on a regular basis.
3. Each school shall distribute a school handbook and *Grade Level Expectations* to parents/guardians at the beginning of each school year and to the parents/guardians of new students after the start of the school year. The handbook shall contain information about current programs, criteria for pupil participation in these programs, and other information designed to acquaint parents/guardians with school regulations and procedures.
4. A letter explaining the purposes, organization, and services provided by the Title I program shall be distributed annually to the parents/ guardians of eligible students prior to participation in the program.

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*(cf. 5145.6 - Parental Notifications)*

### **School-Level Policies for Title I Schools**

At each school receiving Title I funds, a written policy on parent involvement shall be developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents/guardians of participating students. Such policy shall describe the means by which the school will: (20 USC 6318)

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents/guardians of participating students shall be invited and encouraged to attend, in order to inform parents/guardians of their school's participation in Title I and to explain Title I requirements and the right of parents/guardians to be involved
2. Encourage greater parent/guardian participation by adjusting meeting schedules to accommodate parent/guardian needs, and to the extent practicable, by providing translation or interpreter services, transportation, and/or child care.
3. Involve parents/guardians in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent involvement policy and, if applicable, the joint development of the plan for schoolwide programs pursuant to 20 USC 6314

The school may use an existing process for involving parents/guardians in the joint planning and design of the school's programs provided that the process includes adequate representation of parents/guardians of participating students.

4. Provide the parents/guardians of participating students all of the following:
  - a. Timely information about Title I programs
  - b. A description and explanation of the school's curriculum, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet

*(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)*

*(cf. 5123 - Promotion/Acceleration/Retention)*

- c. If requested by parents/guardians, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their children's education, and, as soon as practicably possible, responses to the suggestions of parents/guardians

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5. If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents/guardians of participating students, submit any parent/guardian comments when the school makes the plan available to the district
6. Jointly develop with the parents/guardians of participating students a school-parent compact that outlines how parents/guardians, the entire school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents/guardians will build a partnership to help students achieve state standards

*(cf. 0520.1 - High Priority Schools Grant Program)*

This compact shall address:

- a. The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables participating students to achieve the state's student academic achievement standards
- b. Ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television viewing; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their children's education and the positive use of extracurricular time

*(cf. 1240 - Volunteer Assistance)*

*(cf. 5020 - Parent Rights and Responsibilities)*

*(cf. 5113 - Absences and Excuses)*

*(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular/Cocurricular Activities)*

*(cf. 6154 - Homework/Makeup Work)*

- c. The importance of communication between teachers and parents/guardians on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
  - (1) Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as it relates to the student's achievement
  - (2) Frequent reports to parents/guardians on their children's progress
  - (3) Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's classroom, and observation of classroom activities

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT (continued)**

7. Build the capacity of the school and parents/guardians for strong parent involvement
8. To the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/guardians with limited English proficiency, parents/guardians with disabilities, and parents/guardians of migrant children, including providing information and school reports required under 20 USC 6311(h) in a format and language such parents/guardians can understand

Each school's parent involvement policy shall be made available to the local community and distributed to parents/guardians of participating students in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents/guardians can understand. (20 USC 6318)

The principal or designee, jointly with parents/guardians of participating students, shall periodically update the school's policy to meet the changing needs of parents/guardians and the school. (20 USC 6318)

**District Strategies for Non-Title I Schools**

For each school that does not receive federal Title I funds, the Superintendent or designee shall, at a minimum:

1. Engage parents/guardians positively in their children's education by helping them develop skills to use at home that support their children's academic efforts at school and their children's development as responsible members of society (Education Code 11502, 11504)
2. Inform parents/guardians that they can directly affect the success of their children's learning, by providing them with techniques and strategies that they may use to improve their children's academic success and to assist their children in learning at home (Education Code 11502, 11504)

The Superintendent or designee may:

- a. Provide parents/guardians with information regarding ways to create an effective study environment at home and to encourage good study habits
- b. Encourage parents/guardians to monitor their children's school attendance, homework completion, and television viewing

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT** (continued)

- c. Encourage parents/guardians to volunteer in their child's classroom and to participate in school advisory committees
3. Build consistent and effective communication between the home and school so that parents/guardians may know when and how to assist their children in support of classroom learning activities (Education Code 11502, 11504)

The Superintendent or designee may:

- a. Ensure that teachers provide frequent reports to parents/guardians on their children's progress and hold parent-teacher conferences at least twice per year with parents/guardians of elementary school students
  - b. Provide opportunities for parents/guardians to observe classroom activities and to volunteer in their child's classroom
  - c. Provide information about parent involvement opportunities through district, school, and/or class newsletters, the district's web site, and other written or electronic communications
  - d. To the extent practicable, provide notices and information to parents/guardians in a format and language they can understand
  - e. Develop mechanisms to encourage parent/guardian input on district and school issues
  - f. Identify barriers to parent/guardian participation in school activities, including parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background
  - g. Encourage greater parent/guardian participation by adjusting meeting schedules to accommodate parent/guardian needs and, to the extent practicable, by providing translation or interpreter services, transportation, and/or child care
4. Train teachers and administrators to communicate effectively with parents/guardians (Education Code 11502, 11504)
5. Integrate parent involvement programs into school plans for academic accountability

**PARENT INVOLVEMENT** (continued)

The Superintendent or designee may:

- a. Include parent involvement strategies in school reform or school improvement initiatives
- b. Involve parents/guardians in school planning processes