

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR HIGH SCHOOL
Parental Involvement Policy
2013-2014

The DeKalb County School District Board of Education believes that the public schools belong to the people who create them by consent and taxation and are only as strong as the informed and knowledgeable support of DeKalb's citizens and the school system's staff. This support is based upon their knowledge and understanding of and participation in the development of the goals and objectives of the public schools, the district and school level parental involvement policy.

We, therefore, affirm and assure the right of parents of children participating in activities funded by Title I, ESEA, to opportunities (including but not limited to action teams, strategic planning committees, community meetings, parent workshops, surveys and questionnaires) to collaboratively participate in:

- the design and implementation and evaluation of the DeKalb County School District Plan including parental involvement activities as stipulated under section 1112 of the Act;
- the development and revision of parental involvement policy at the district and school level to insure the implementation of activities that are beneficial to all parents as stipulated under section 1112 of the Act;
- The decisions regarding how funds from the minimum 1% reservation are allotted for parental involvement activities as mandated in section 1116 of the Act.

DCSD insures that the expectation of parents set at the local school are clearly established and distributed to parents of participating students when they are enrolled in Title I funded activities. The DCSD Title I office assists in coordination of and provides technical assistance to each Title I eligible school as needed to ensure the effective planning and implementation of parental involvement coordinator, other Title I staff members and other appropriate support personnel within and outside DCSS.

Since Title I focus on building a greater capacity for parental involvement, DCSD will maintain the following principles that should build both school and parent capacity for parental involvement. These principles will be accomplished through training and instruction of both parents and educators. Provisions for such training and instruction for each of these principles may occur via community meetings, parent workshops, brochures and other media or avenue of learning that is appropriate for the information to be conveyed.

1. MLK High School understands that as educators we bear the responsibility of helping parents understand federal and state policies and objectives concerning their children's education. Therefore we pledge to communicate:
 - Ways parents can monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children, and
 - Ways parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
2. MLK High School educates all stakeholders on the importance of parents and their contributions to the school and their student's education. This is done by reaching out to all parents by

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implementing and coordinating parent programs including attendance to local, state, regional and national parent conferences and workshops.

3. MLK High School will educate our parents about services such as Parent Resource Centers, Systematic Training for Effective Parenting Programs, Parents Assuring Student Success (PassPort), Parent Cluster meetings and Instructional Fairs.
4. The development of training activities of teachers, principals and other educators may involve Title I parents when feasible to improve the instruction and services to Title I students.
5. Meetings involving parents will be arranged at a variety of times, such as morning and evenings, to maximize opportunities for parents to participate in school related activities including other reasonable, appropriate and feasible support for parental involvement activities, if parents request it.
8. MLK High School works in collaboration with DCSD to identify licensed DeKalb Neglected/Delinquent child caring facilities. Where appropriate and feasible the following action is taken:
 - Use counseling staff to identify student needs and connect students and their families with community resources.
 - Use various communication methods such as the internet, marquee, and mail outs to ensure that DeKalb Neglected/Delinquent child caring facility parents have an opportunity to be informed on the aforementioned points relative to parental involvement at MLK HS.

DCSD has commissioned a task force of parents, principals, and district staff to research high quality parental involvement district programs around the nation and to develop a researched base Framework for DeKalb that supports parental Involvement and is measured on an annual basis to inform and improve district practices in this critical area. The Parental Involvement Framework initiative is designed to strengthen the collaboration in communication between the DCSD and its parents. A subsidiary technology project called "E-Parent Communication System has been piloted to test the use of technology through mobile communications to send information to parents regarding pertinent announcements, surveys, polls, instructional updates, system-wide events, public safety announcements, and when necessary emergency information There has also been the development of the Parent Guide Resource Guide which increases the opportunity of parents to become involved in their child's education through activities and awareness of many services the DCSD provides for children.

The Parent Involvement policy of the DeKalb County School District and each participating school is evaluated annually as to the effectiveness in increasing parent participation and identifying barriers to parent participation such as low income, disabilities, limited literacy, language or other cultural or ethnic considerations. The findings of the annual evaluation are used to design strategies for school improvement or to redesign the parent policies. All non-satisfactory parent comments regarding parent involvement and system plan are collected and attached to the plan when submitted to the State Title I Office.

Revised September 16, 2013