

PARENT/GUARDIAN INVOLVEMENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Alexandria City School Board recognizes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school and the student's family, ~~and~~. ~~The Alexandria City School Board~~ endorses the parent/guardian involvement and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. § 6318), ~~(Elementary and Secondary Education Act [ESEA] §1118 and Title III (ESEA §3302) and~~ The School Board encourages ~~the~~ regular participation by parents/guardians and family members of all children, including those eligible for Title I and ~~Limited English Proficiency (LEP)~~ English Learner programs, in all aspects of those programs. Full implementation guidance for this policy is found in Regulation IGBC-R.

In keeping with these beliefs, ~~it is the intention of the Alexandria City School Board to~~ cultivate and supports active parental/guardian involvement and family engagement in student learning. Through the observance of this policy and the ACPS Strategic Plan, effective communication between schools and families will be valued. Regulation IGBC-R promotes strategies to enhance family-school partnerships and reflect the needs of students, parents/guardians and families.

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools will:~~

- ~~1) Provide activities that will educate parents/guardians regarding the intellectual and developmental needs of their children. These activities will promote cooperation between the division and other agencies or school/community groups to furnish learning opportunities and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development;~~
- ~~2) Implement strategies to involve parents/guardians in the educational process, including:

 - ~~(i) Keeping families informed of opportunities for involvement and encouraging participation in various programs;~~
 - ~~(ii) Providing access to educational resources for parents/guardians and families to use with their children; and~~
 - ~~(iii) Keeping families informed of the objectives of the division's educational programs as well as of their child's participation and progress with these programs;~~~~
- ~~3) Enable families to participate in the education of their children through a variety of roles. For example, family members are encouraged to:

 - ~~(i) Provide input into division policies; and~~
 - ~~(ii) Volunteer time within the classroom and school programs.~~~~
- ~~4) Provide professional development opportunities for teachers and staff members to enhance their understanding of effective parent involvement strategies;~~
- ~~5) Perform regular evaluations of parent involvement at each school and in the Division;~~

- ~~6) Provide access, upon request, to any instructional material used as part of the educational curriculum;~~
- ~~7) If practicable, provide information in a language understandable to parents/guardians. In addition, for parents/guardians of students eligible for LEP programs, ACPS will inform such parents/guardians of how they can be active participants in assisting their children:
 - ~~i. to learn English;~~
 - ~~ii. to achieve at high levels in core academic subjects; and~~
 - ~~iii. to meet the same challenging academic content and student academic achievement standards as all children are expected to meet.~~~~

Parental Involvement in Title I Plan

~~The Alexandria City School Division encourages parents/guardians of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, programs to participate in the development of the Division's Title I plan. Parents/guardians input is received in multiple formats and parents/guardians may participate in the development of the plan via such venues as: participation in their school's Title I school leadership or school improvement team or Title I Parental Advisory Committee; attendance at their school's Annual Title I Meeting; or by responding to Title I surveys and/or contacting the division's Title I Office directly.~~

Parental Involvement in School Improvement

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools encourages parents/guardians of children eligible to participate in Title I, Part A, and LEP programs to participate in the process of school improvement as implemented by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act § 1118. Parents/guardians may participate in the school improvement process in two ways: first, by serving on either the school improvement team or school leadership team, and second, by sending their comments to the school improvement team or school leadership team.~~

Division Responsibilities

~~ACPS and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds, **WILL:**~~

- ~~1) Provide assistance to parents/guardians of children served by the school or Division, as applicable, in understanding topics such as Virginia's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;~~
- ~~2) Provide materials and training to help parents/guardians work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent/guardian involvement;~~
- ~~3) Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff members, with the assistance of parents/guardians, in the value and utility of contributions of~~

- ~~parents/guardians and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents/guardians as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent/guardian programs, and build ties between parents/guardians and the school;~~
- ~~4) To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent/guardian involvement programs and activities with other agencies or school/community groups that encourage and support parents/guardians in more fully participating in the education of their children;~~
 - ~~5) Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents/guardians of participating students in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand; and~~
 - ~~6) Provide such other reasonable support for parent/guardian involvement activities as parents/guardians may request.~~

~~The Alexandria City Public Schools, and each school which receives Title I, Part A, funds, MAY:~~

- ~~1) Involve parents/guardians in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;~~
- ~~2) Provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds if the Division has exhausted all other reasonable available sources of funding for such training;~~
- ~~3) Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent/guardian involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents/guardians to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;~~
- ~~4) Train parents/guardians to enhance the involvement of other parents/guardians;~~
- ~~5) Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct (in-home) conferences between teachers and/or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents/guardians who are unable to attend such conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;~~
- ~~6) Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;~~
- ~~7) Establish a Division-wide Title I Parent Advisory Committee to provide advice on all matters related to parent/guardian involvement in programs supported under this section; and,~~
- ~~8) Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.~~

School Parent/Guardian Involvement Policies

~~Each school served under Title I, Part A, shall jointly develop with and distribute to parents/guardians of participating children a written parent/guardian involvement policy, agreed on by such parents/guardians that shall describe the means for carrying out the following:~~

- ~~1) Convening an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents/guardians of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents/guardians of their school's participation in Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirements of Title I, Part A, and the rights of parents/guardians to be involved;~~
- ~~2) Offering flexible meeting schedules such as morning or evening; and if needed, provide, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement;~~
- ~~3) Involving parents/guardians in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A, programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent/guardian involvement policy and the joint development of the school-wide program plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act §1118(b). If a school has in place a process for involving parents/guardians in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents/guardians of participating children;~~
- ~~4) Providing parents/guardians of participating children
 - ~~i. timely information about Title I, Part A, programs;~~
 - ~~ii. a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and~~
 - ~~iii. if requested by parents/guardians, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; and~~~~
- ~~5) If the school-wide program plan under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act §1114(b)(2) is not satisfactory to the parents/guardians of participating children, any parent/guardian comments on the plan will be submitted when the school makes the plan available to the Division.~~

~~Parent/Guardian Involvement in Allocation of Funding~~

~~ACPS shall involve parents/guardians of children receiving services under Title I, Part A, in the decisions regarding how funds provided under Title I, Part A, are allotted for parental involvement activities.~~

~~ACPS will involve parents/guardians of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one 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 school.~~

~~ACPS shall evaluate the content and effectiveness of this policy annually with regard to improv-~~

~~ing the academic quality of the schools receiving Title I, Part A, or LEP funds. This evaluation will identify barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians (particularly by parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The Superintendent will use the findings of that evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to recommend revisions, if necessary, to this policy.~~

Adopted: January 9, 1997
Amended: July 10, 1997
Amended: July 1, 2004
Amended: July 1, 2005
Amended: January 22, 2015

Amended:

Legal Refs.: ~~ESEA §§ 1114, 1118, 3302~~
20 U.S.C. §§ 6311, 6314, 6318
42 U.S.C. § 2000(d)
30 C.F.R. Part 100

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, ~~sections §~~ 22.1-78.

Cross Refs.:

<u>AD</u>	<u>Educational Philosophy</u>
<u>BCF</u>	<u>Advisory Committees to the School Board</u>
<u>IAA</u>	<u>Notification of Learning Objectives</u>
<u>IGBC-R</u>	<u>Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Regulations</u>
<u>IICB/IICC</u>	<u>Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers</u>
<u>IKA</u>	<u>Parental Assistance with Instruction</u>
<u>IKA-R</u>	<u>Regulations for Parental Involvement With Student Learning</u>
<u>IKCA</u>	<u>Reports to Parents/Guardians</u>
<u>KA</u>	<u>Goals for School-Community-Parent Relations</u>
<u>KB</u>	<u>Public Information Program</u>
<u>KK</u>	<u>School Visitors</u>
<u>KMA</u>	<u>Relations with Parent Organizations as Partners</u>
<u>KP</u>	<u>Parental Rights and Responsibilities</u>