

Richmond Community Schools Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Richmond Community Schools recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family. Meaningful family support is crucial if students are to achieve their potential. Richmond Community Schools intends to follow the parental policy guidelines in accordance with the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* as listed below. Richmond Community Schools will distribute this policy to parents of students participating in the Title I program.

Policy Guidelines

Richmond Community Schools will provide parents with the opportunity to be involved in jointly developing the district's local plan and in the process of school review and improvement.

Richmond Community Schools will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

Richmond Community Schools will provide opportunities for professional development and training, and materials as appropriate, to build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, covering such topics as:

- Understanding the State's academic content standards and student academic achievement standards.
- Educating educators, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between the parents and the school.
- How parents can monitor a child's progress and work with educators to help improve the achievement of their children.
- Other topics related to helping parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, or other topics as parents may request.

Richmond Community Schools will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, such as parent resource centers, will be made available to parents in a number of ways, including school postings, school newsletters, notes home from school, and mailings.

Richmond Community Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, and Title III language instructional programs.

Richmond Community Schools will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served with Title I, Part A funds, including:

Identification of the 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.

Richmond Community Schools will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement. If necessary, RCS will work with parents to revise the Richmond Community Schools Title I Parent Involvement Policy.

Expectations for Parent Involvement

Richmond Community Schools expects that parents of participating students be provided with frequent and convenient opportunities for full and ongoing participation in the Title I program. This shall include opportunities to jointly develop the Title I program plan and suggest modifications in the process for school review and improvement.

Any comments regarding parents' dissatisfaction with the Richmond Community Schools Title I program must be collected and submitted along with the Title I Application for Grant to the Indiana Division of Compensatory Education.

The Title I program must be designed to assist students to acquire the competencies and achieve the goals established by law, as well as the goals and standards established by the Richmond Community Schools Board. These goals and standards must be shared with parents in a manner that will enable them to (1) participate in decisions concerning their child's education and (2) monitor and improve the educational achievement of their child.

School Parent Involvement Policies

Each school must submit its Title I School Parent Involvement Policy, which must meet all legal requirements. This policy must be developed jointly with and distributed by the school to parents of participating students. The policy must be updated annually.

A copy of each schools parent involvement policy shall be kept on file with the school's Title I program plan in the Central Office.