

Benton Area School District
Title I
Parent Involvement Policy
2011-2012

The Benton Area School District is committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledges that parents share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children.

The Benton Area School District also recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family and agrees that in order to effectively educate all students, the schools and parents must work together as knowledgeable partners.

We define parent and family involvement as an on-going process that assists parents and families to meet their basic obligation as their child's first educator, promotes clear two-way dialogue between home and school and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.

To this end, a written plan for Title I parent involvement that establishes programs and practices to enhance parent involvement and reflects the needs of students and families will be jointly developed by parents and school staff. The plan will be unique to the Title I school and provide a sense of direction for designing initial and on-going activities. It will be written in a language parents understand and include the essential components as outlined in Section 1118 of No Child Left Behind.

A Title I Parent Advisory Council will be formed at each Title I school. All parents will be invited to participate in this group. The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will be involved in the process of school review and improvement as needed. They will work together with staff to plan and implement effective and requested parent involvement activities. In addition, this group will review and revise parent involvement policies, school-parent compacts, progress reports and participate in the development of the program application. They will also be involved in the development of the evaluation instrument to be used to assess parent needs. They will work together with the LEA (local education agency or district) to try to increase parent involvement and determine what the barriers are to parental participation that need to be addressed.

The LEA will coordinate as appropriate Title I parent involvement activities with Head Start, the Family Center, pre-schools and day-care providers in the community. These organizations will be notified of upcoming events that may be of interest to parents with an open invitation to attend.

Implementation of the plan will be a priority of the school community.