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To Whom It May Concern:

Title I Parent Involvement Policies

As outlined in Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by No Child Left Behind (NCLB), Districts (LEAs) and Schools are required to have Title I Parent Involvement "policies." Such policies are intended to be a process or framework to guide the implementation of parent involvement programs or activities and therefore reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

Each LEA that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop a written parental involvement policy that establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement. The policy must be developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, the parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs and distributed to parents of all children participating in Title I, Part A programs. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.] If the LEA already has a district-level parental involvement policy that applies to all parents, the LEA may amend that existing policy, if necessary, to meet the requirements of section 1118. [Section 1118(b)(3), ESEA.]

Furthermore, each school served under Title I, Part A shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of subsections (c) through (f). Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. Section 1118(b), ESEA.]

Per the most current guidance received in 2008 from the U.S. Department of Education Federal Title I Director, the use of the word "policy" in the context of parent involvement in the federal Title I statute does not determine whether a district's parent involvement "policy" must be reviewed by a local school board. Whether such a "policy" must be reviewed is a local decision informed by the content of the document. Section 1118(a)(2) of Title I describes what a Title I parent involvement policy must include. If these are not the types of matters that a school board would normally review, the mere fact that the statute uses the word "policy" should not be determinate. **From the Federal perspective, a district may attach whatever label it likes to the document describing parent involvement opportunities.** It must be in writing, however, and must be agreed to by parents of participating children. Further, a district must be able to implement its "policies" through whatever review and clearance process the district requires.

If you require any further information or clarification, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Janette Kirk
ESEA Director, Title I

Cc: Charlene Tucker, Director of Assessment & Accountability
Rachelle Tome, Chief Academic Officer