Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

Magnolia School

Baldwin County Board of Education

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Introduction

All Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools must complete the following diagnostics: the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic, the Parent Involvement Diagnostic, the Coordination of Resource/Comprehensive Budget Diagnostic, and EITHER the Title I Targeted Assistance Diagnostic OR the Title I Schoolwide Diagnostic. Parent Survey must be done annually, but it can be done electronically or by paper.
Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

1. Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved.

Parents of Magnolia School students are invited to attend an annual Title 1 meeting which is held in the fall of each year. Information about the Title 1 program, financial benefits and the minimum criteria necessary to qualify as a Title 1 school are communicated to parents. At that time, parents may provide input and voice concerns to be addressed by the School Improvement Lead Team (SILT). Magnolia's Continuous Improvement Plan is reviewed and monitored throughout the school year by the SILT team, which includes parents and patrons.

2. Describe: 1) How there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered; 2) How parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school.

Magnolia School holds an annual parent meeting to present information about its Title 1 program and additional parent workshops are held throughout the year. Parent workshops are publicized via flyers, newsletters, digital school sign, and our rapid notification system. Magnolia School has a SILT team which is comprised of teachers from each grade level, special education teachers, administrators, parents, and patrons. We believe in involving parents in all aspects of the Title 1 program. We have parents and patrons active in the development of the CIP plan. SILT team members are responsible for decision making regarding the CIP plan and distribution of information to their constituents. Parents and patrons are selected due to their dedication and interest in the improvement of our school. Title 1 funds are used to provide technical assistance and other support necessary for training parents to assist students academically, thus helping them perform better in school. Student communication folders are provided for all students to assist the school in communicating with parents on a daily bases. Additionally, colored paper is purchased for monthly newsletters to parents.

3. Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children.

Magnolia School holds an annual parent meeting to present information about its Title 1 program, the curriculum and forms of academic assessments used. Parents learn about grade specific content for language arts, math, science, social science, physical education, and art/music. Additional parent workshops are held as needed to address homework/study skills and testing. In addition, numerous fun filled workshops are offered to parents to engage in hands-on activities with their children. Parents are given a copy of the Parent Student handbook the first day of school. We have parent orientation, meet the teacher, and open house for parents to visit their child's classroom and find out class expectations. Teachers provide additional information to parents as events take place. Parent teacher conferences are encouraged for parents to participate in decisions related to the education and discipline of their child. We have an English language liaison available to interpret for ELL students/parents at workshops and parent conferences. We also have documents/flyers available in Spanish for our ELL families.
4. Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated).

The SILT team developed a School-Parent Compact specific to the academic and behavioral needs of the students we serve. The compact details clear expectations for the school (principal/teacher), parent, and student. All vested parties sign the compact signifying their commitment to working in partnership to ensure student success. The principal and teacher sign the compact initially, then the teacher explains the compact to the class and obtains the student's signature. The compact is then sent home for parent review and signature. After obtaining parent signatures the compacts are filed in the classroom and used during future parent teacher conferences, and or student teacher conferences. Parent School Compacts are available in Spanish. The SILT team meets annually to review/modify the current compact. Revisions are made as guidelines change and concerns are presented.

5. Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan.

The CIP plan is located in the Federal Programs Coordinator's office, principal's office, school library, each certified teacher's classroom, and on the school website (www.magnoliaschoolk6.com). This plan is available upon request, during normal school hours, to parents, students, and for the public to review. Strategies and action steps implemented are scientifically researched based. A copy of the parental involvement plan is distributed at the annual Title 1 Parent Meeting providing parents an opportunity to become active participants in the revision process. Copies are available in English and Spanish. If a parent not serving on the revision committee is dissatisfied with any aspect of the plan, they may call or meet with the school principal to voice concerns. Every parent's concerns will be heard. Parents may also put questions/concerns in writing. All submitted or voiced concerns are addressed at future CIP meetings.

6a. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide training for parents of participating children in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. (Describe)

Magnolia School shall provide assistance to parents in understanding the academic standards for student achievement as set forth by the State of Alabama. Parents receive a home report that communicate their child's performance on the state assessments ACT Aspire, and a parent letter that explains how to interpret the results. Conferences are held with parents to discuss individual student achievement, and to make recommendations for improvement. Magnolia School shall give an explanation regarding Title 1 services offered and parent rights under Title 1. Information shall be communicated to parents at intervals throughout the school year.

6b. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide training for parents of participating children in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. (Describe)
To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (Describe)

Magnolia School shall provide materials and training to assist parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement. Parental involvement meetings are held annually and address a variety of current issues to educate parents on ways in which to assist students in becoming successful in school. We shall also ensure that information about school activities, parent programs, and meetings will be communicated through monthly calendars. Important dates and other information are also included in daily communication folders, student agendas, classroom newsletters, and our rapid notification announcements.

6c. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school. (Describe)

Magnolia School shall continue to work with its teachers through in-services, faculty meetings and Response to Instruction meetings in understanding the importance of parental involvement and that parents are our partners. To build strong ties between parents and the school and keep parents informed/involved. Magnolia School invites parents to participate in the following: parent orientation, meet the teacher, Thanksgiving Feast, PTO, Bingo night, Fall Festival, room parents, field trip chaperones, classroom readers, holiday parties/festivities, Library Book Fairs, picture day, awards ceremonies, family nights, a Mardi Gras Gala, and a kindergarten parent Boo-Hoo Breakfast.

6d. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. (Describe)

Magnolia School coordinates its parental involvement for all parents. We assist parents and parent organizations by informing them of resources to provide training information and support. Magnolia School provides numerous opportunities for parental participation for English and non-English speaking parents, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. The school counselor plans parent meetings/activities that are academic and/or fun in nature and also has CD's, DVD's and literature available for parents to checkout and utilize.
6e. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (Describe)

We currently have English Language Learners enrolled at Magnolia School. Our ELL personnel work diligently to meet the needs of these parents. Our school counselor has an abundance of parent materials available, during school hours and at evening workshops, to all parents. A listing of parent resources distributed annually and posted on the school website. In addition, if parents request materials we do not have on hand, can generally be found at the central office resource center.

6f. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)

Magnolia School makes every effort to work with parents in honoring requests as related to involvement in their child's education. For example, child care is provided during pre-k and kindergarten orientation and the Title 1 Parent Meeting to allow more parents to attend alleviating the need to find childcare.

7. Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students; including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

Parents with limited English language proficiency, disabled parents, and parents of migratory students will be given a full opportunity to participate in all parental involvement activities. This will be accomplished with assistance for the Baldwin County Board of Education providing bilingual assistance to translate information presented at meetings, and reports/written information assistance from community social agencies, community members who are fluent in the parent's primary language and English and by obtaining printed materials which have been transcribed in the parent's primary language. Access to the campus is wheel-chair accessible. If parents with disabilities are unable to attend school meetings due to their disability, in-home conferences may be scheduled.