



School District of Philadelphia
James Dobson Elementary School
4667 Umbria Street
Philadelphia, PA 19127
Phone: (215) 400-3570 / Fax: (215) 400-3571
Tom Szczesny, Ed.D., Principal

The Dobson Elementary School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during school year 2018 - 2019.

School Responsibilities:

The Dobson Elementary School will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
 - Strive to address the individual needs of each student using differentiated practices that may include a daily intervention period.
 - Assure every student has access to quality learning experiences that are based on the Pennsylvania Core Standards and district
 - academic guidelines. Dobson is utilizing new literacy and math programs in grades K-8.
 - Provide teachers with ongoing professional development on Pennsylvania Core Standards and best teaching practices.
 - Engagement of students to analyze, reason, think, and rationalize through higher order questioning across the curriculum.
 - Ensure that differentiated instruction is engaging and standard driven through choice boards, learning contracts, and tiered assignments.
 - Continued professional development in differentiated instruction practices monitored by school leadership
 - Continued Professional development on inclusive practices and co-teaching strategies.
 - Continued Professional development on Special Education policy and protocol, and related instructional best practices.
1. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held:
 - Back to School Night, annually
 - School Advisory Council meetings, monthly
 - Report card Conferences, quarterly
 2. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
 - Interim reports will be sent home with students as appropriate each academic quarter.
 - Report cards will be given to parents at conferences in November 2018, February 2019, and April 2019. Final report cards will be issued the last day of school.
 - RTII team and/or classroom teachers will contact parents via mail, email, or phone if student is considered at-risk.
 3. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:

Parents can meet with any staff member by making an appointment directly with staff member. Teachers are on premises from 8:21-3:10.

Communication with teachers can be through email, phone (leave message with office and teacher will return call), note sent with student or written in planner.

4. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows:

Dobson is always looking for parent volunteers to assist with safe corridors program, trips and tutoring. Any parent wishing to volunteer should speak to your child's teacher, a school administrator, or the School Advisory Council. Parents volunteering on a regular basis need to apply for FBI, State police and Child Abuse clearances. The School District also requires that parents complete a Volunteer Orientation, which are held monthly on-site at Dobson.

Parents can visit classrooms by making an appointment directly with teacher and school administration.

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- Monitoring attendance
- Ensure homework is completed
- Volunteering at school
- Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my child's education
- Promoting positive use of my child's extracurricular time
- Staying informed about my child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate
- Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as the School Advisory Council.

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- Complete homework every day and ask for help when needed
- Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time
- Ensure parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare are aware of all notices and information that are sent home by Dobson School every day.
- Follow the Dobson's Positive Behavior Plan

The Dobson School will:

1. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement policy, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
2. Involve parents in the joint development of any school-wide program plan, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
3. Hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements, and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a convenient time to parents, and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite to this meeting all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students), and will encourage them to attend.
4. Provide information to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon the request of parents with disabilities, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

5. Provide to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
6. At the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions, and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
7. Provide to each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading.
8. Provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002).

To help build and develop a partnership with parents to help their children achieve the State's high academic standards, the Dobson Elementary School will:

1. Recommend to the School District Federal Programs Coordinator, the names of parents of participating children of Title I, Part A programs who are interested in serving on the State's Committee of Practitioners and School Support Teams.
2. Notify parents of the school's participation in Early Reading First, Reading First and Even Start Family Literacy Programs operating within the school, the district and the contact information.
3. Work with the School District of Philadelphia in addressing problems, if any, in implementing parental involvement activities in section 1118 of Title I, Part A.
4. Work with the School District of Philadelphia to ensure that a copy of the State Education Agency's written complaint procedures for resolving any issue of violation(s) of a Federal statute or regulation of Title I, Part A programs is provided to parents of students and to appropriate private school officials or representatives.

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA - DOBSON SCHOOL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Each school in its School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must establish the school's expectations for parental involvement. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.]

The Dobson School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

· The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

· Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

· The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its School District of Philadelphia plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

· In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

· If the School District of Philadelphia's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

· The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 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 schools.

· The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*

(B) *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*

(C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

[NOTE: The School-wide Parental Involvement Policy must include a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [Section 1118(a)(2), ESEA.] Regardless of the format the school chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.]

1. The **Dobson School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school-wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the

ESEA:

- Invite parents to regular School Advisory Council Meetings, where Dobson staff will participate.
- Actively participate in neighborhood groups that assist the school population. (i.e Safe Corridors)

2. The **Dobson School** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

* Utilize the School Advisory Council to share School Improvement Plan (SIP) information

- * Present Title I information, PSSA data, and SIP strategies to parents at regular Home & School meetings.
- * Provide adequate advanced notice to parents of meetings and cancellation of meetings through monthly newsletter, school messenger (phone calls).
- * Provide language access services for parents/caregivers whose first language is other than English, to the extent feasible. Dobson has five bilingual counseling assistants on site part time, to translate Chinese, Spanish, Arabic, Albanian, and Vietnamese. The school will also use Pacific Interpreter services when appropriate.

3. The **Dobson School** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- * Provide workshops in school on parent involvement and supporting student achievement.
- * Provide Home & School and parents with access to materials and resources to support student achievement, to the extent possible, with existing resources.
- * Direct parents to outside resources and assist with documentation, when possible, to supplement resources currently available at school.

4. The **Dobson School** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

- * Outside agencies: Eat Right Now and Interact.

5. The **Dobson School** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A programs. The evaluation will include identifying 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). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

Concern Form will be utilized to encourage parental communication with administrative staff.

School representative will attend Home and School meetings to gather information on parental view of school.

6. The **Dobson School** will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The **Dobson School** will, with the assistance of the School District, provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described below...

- The State's academic content standards,
- The State's student academic achievement standards,
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- The requirements of Title I-Part A,
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators.

* Dobson staff will be available to collaborate and coordinate with various organizations and parent groups to provide presentations and workshops about Title I, Pa standards, and school district expectations.

* Provide information on above topics to parents in clear simple language, to the extent practical in targeted languages.

* Disseminate materials from the Office of Teaching and Learning and other offices, including, to the extent feasible, translations to parents and caregivers that will be useful references at home.

B. The **Dobson School** will, with the assistance of the School District, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Provide literacy content support and other development sessions to help parents and caregivers understand available resources for families as they support their child's literacy instruction.
- Facilitate parental access to the School District of Philadelphia's FamilyNet portal to increase parental access to meaningful data.
- Host annual book fair, to foster at home reading.

C. The **Dobson School** will, with the assistance of the School District, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Regularly discussing data trends, areas of improvement, and action steps, at school leadership team meetings.
- Invite parents, district personnel, school personnel, and outside agencies, to present professional development to staff about positive communication and building ties.

D. The **Dobson School** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other 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, by:

- Not applicable as Dobson School does not currently offer Pre-K programming

E. The **Dobson School** will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- To extent practical, information will be sent in clear simple language, including native languages.
- Provide oral explanation of documents and concepts when requested.
- Teachers will communicate with parents via School Messenger (phone system), agenda book notes home, letters home, parent conferences, parent engagement meetings, etc.

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- Involving parents in the development of school policy, through interaction with School Council and School Advisory Council.
- Arranging school meetings at a variety of times.
- Provide workshops for parents on relevant school data, programs and skills.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.
- Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

* * * * *

PART IV. ADOPTION

This **Dobson School** Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents/caregivers as evidenced by meetings held on August 21, 2018.

The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before September 13, 2019.