

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

General George McCall SCHOOL

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

2017-2018

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 General George McCall Elementary 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 General George McCall 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:
 - a. McCall has an extremely involved Home and School Association. The Home and School conduct monthly meetings before and after school to meet the time constraints of McCall parents.
 - b. Each month, the principal has an informal Coffee with the Principal meeting with parents to address any instructional questions or concerns. The BCA is also in attendance for translation for our Chinese parents.
 - c. The School Based Teacher Leader conducts mini-lessons or workshops on topics requested by parents of McCall. For example, Accessing Familynet, guided reading practices, and accessing web-based intervention programs.

2. The General George McCall School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. The McCall school takes the following actions to make sure that we are involving our parents on a continuous basis. All Home and School meetings are posted on the marquee board in the yard and electronically on the McCall website called, meetingmccall.com.
 - b. All district and school-based parent correspondence is sent home in both English and Chinese.
 - c. Coffee with the principal is held monthly from 8:45 am- 10:00 am.

3. The **School District of Philadelphia** 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:
 - In collaboration with the Grants Compliance Monitor, School-Community Liaisons, Philadelphia Home and School Council (PHSC), Title I Parent Advisory Committee, The Philadelphia Right to Know Educational Task Force, PARENT POWER, and other parent groups, provide workshops to schools on parent engagement.
 - Provide professional development by parents/caregivers for new and existing principals and other administrators on how to develop promising partnerships with parents/caregivers.
 - Train new and existing staff with parental engagement duties (e.g., School Improvement Support Liaisons, School-Community Liaisons, School Community Coordinators, and Bilingual Counselor Assistants) to assist school sites in implementing parental engagement.
 - Make available the staff of the Office of Educational Equity, Office of Specialized Instructional Support, and Office of Family and Community Engagement staff for technical assistance.
 - The Grants Compliance/Title I Office will provide technical assistance to schools and parent organizations, such as the Title I Parent Advisory Committee (PAC), Home and School Associations, The Philadelphia Right to Education Task Force, PARENT POWER, and other organized parent groups.
 - Provide coordination of professional development efforts through the Office of Leadership and Development.
 - Provide workshops to parents on supporting student achievement and parent engagement.

3. The General George McCall School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs], by:
 - a. The McCall School communicates with all local day care programs and pre-schools to arrange visits for the parents and students who will be entering kindergarten.
 - b. Monthly tours are given for all prospective parents and we host two kindergarten open houses.
 - c. Open houses are widely advertised in community newsletters, community childcare facilities are notified and the information is presented on our Home and School website.

- d. During the first week of June, McCall has an open house as a meet and greet for incoming kindergarteners and their families. This opportunity allows for new families to meet some current McCall families.
4. The General George McCall 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.
 - a. Each month Home and School meetings are held in the Library of McCall. At this time the Principal and the Home and School President will address questions and concerns.
 - b. These meetings are held from October to June.
 - c. One open house meeting (Back-to-School Night) is held in September in the evening as a meet and greet session for parents to meet with their child's teacher. The evening is divided into two sessions for parents who may have more than one child.
6. The General George McCall 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 General George McCall 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 in this paragraph --
 - The State's academic common core standards are shared and reviewed at the second annual Coffee with the Principal meeting. The State's PDE website is shared and parents are shown how to access the plethora of information and activities it offers parents.
 - The State's student academic achievement standards are shared during Coffee with the Principal and during parent conferences three times a year.
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments is discussed during the November and December Coffee with the Principal meetings. The PSSA parent informational page, which includes dates of testing is distributed at this time.
 - The requirements of Title I-Part A is discussed by the principal at the first Coffee with the Principal meeting.
 - The School Based Teacher Leader conducts workshops for parents on how to monitor their child's progress and how to keep all lines of communication open with teachers.

- B. The General George McCall 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:
- Mr. Tang, our Bilingual Counselor, assists our bilingual parents by addressing their questions and concerns in regards to McCall School.
 - PSSA/Benchmark Workshops are held to provide all parents with released item samples in both reading and math. Pennsylvania Rubrics are reviewed at this time as well.
 - Home and School meetings are held every month from October through June.
 - Home and School has a website named mccallschool.org which is a great way to keep all parents informed on what is occurring and what activities will be happening in the near future. It is updated on a weekly basis and is sent to parents, staff, and community partners when applicable.
 - 100 Book Challenge is an opportunity for our lower school parents to volunteer in the classrooms to listen to a beginner reader. This helps foster early literacy skills.
- C. The General George McCall 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:
- Professional Development is an on-going process at McCall. Grade group meetings are held biweekly for each grade. RTII is reviewed on a monthly basis. At this time, best instructional practices and data are discussed to help all staff members implement the Common Core Curriculum.
 - The district also designates full and half days for Professional Developments, these PD sessions will be planned by the District and turn around training will be done by the principal or the SBTL.
 - By the end of November, the instructional staff at McCall is surveyed to see what additional PD sessions need to be offered to help keep the instruction rigorous and student centered.
- D. The General George McCall 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:
- Community partnerships this term are as follows:
 - Federal Reserve hosts a Financial Literacy Program for Grade 1

- Food Trust encourages healthy eating and nutrition for grades K-5
- Arden Theater invites the entire student population to attend a full production performance based on a favorite trade book at least two times a year
- National Labor Review Board sponsors at least five attorneys to tutor students in grades 1-5 from October to May
- Retired Seniors Volunteer Program (RSVP) sponsors at least five to eight seniors to tutor students in reading and math.
- A parent resource center had been established in our lobby area. The Home and School keeps all of the pertinent literature on a monthly basis.

E. The General George McCall 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:

- Monthly Calendar
- Interim Reports are sent home 4x a year
- Parents of 6th, 7th and 8th Graders have Jupiter Grades- This provides parents with up-to-date access about upcoming assignments, grades and projects through the computer or mobile devices
- The Electronic Parent handbook is available as a hardcopy
- Monthly Home and School Meetings
- Bilingual Counseling Assistant, Mr. Qi Tang, translates in Chinese for our parents who speak Chinese
- Back to School Night is held in September
- Title I was discussed and how the money is allocated for this school term 2017-2018

PART III. SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School's Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

- arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

* * * * *

PART IV. ADOPTION

This General George McCall School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents as evidenced by Laurel Landau.
The school will distribute this policy to all parents on or before November 4, 2015.

(Signature of Principal)

(Date)