

East Salisbury Elementary School Title I Parental Involvement Plan 2009-2010

The Wicomico County Board of Education recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers and that parents function as educators throughout their children's lives. More than thirty years of research show that students' academic success and high self esteem are closely related to parent involvement in education from prekindergarten through high school. The Wicomico County Board of Education also believes that the education of our children is a shared responsibility. Involvement by the school, the family, and the community creates a stronger educational system and improves the quality of life for the students, their families, and the entire community of Wicomico County. The school system as well as individual schools make the commitment to establish programs and practices that create a climate of mutual trust and respect and that support substantive parent involvement.

Program Development

Families will be encouraged to become active participants in Title I program planning, decision-making, and school programs.

1. East Salisbury School will meet annually to jointly review, revise, and commit to a *Partners in Learning Compact*, which describes how school staff, parents and students will share responsibility for improving student achievement. A written copy of this compact will be mailed to parents at the beginning of the school year, placed in the East Salisbury School Student Agenda, and posted on the East Salisbury School website. In addition, copies will be distributed to new families as they come in throughout the year.
2. The East Salisbury School Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) will hold open meetings at least two times each school year. Membership will consist of Title I parents and school staff. These meetings will include (but not be limited to):
 - a. the evaluation of Title I Program activities at East Salisbury Elementary School.
 - b. planning Title I Program activities at East Salisbury Elementary School.
 - c. the opportunity for parents to talk about Parent Involvement funds.
 - d. the opportunity for parents to offer suggestions for professional development for teachers on parent involvement and other related issues to the school community to enable teachers to work with parents as equal partners.
 - e. the development with parents of a school level policy for parent involvement. A written copy of this compact will be mailed to parents at the beginning of the school year, placed in the East Salisbury School Student Agenda, and posted on the East Salisbury School website. In addition, copies will be distributed to new families as they come in throughout the year.

Building Capacity for Parental Involvement

Activities designed to build the capacity for strong and meaningful parent involvement at East Salisbury Elementary School include:

1. A Home-School Liaison to foster communication between home and school
2. Parent participation on the East Salisbury Instructional Leadership Team
3. East Salisbury School Title I Parent Advisory Council
4. Opportunities to volunteer (e.g., working in Media Center, listening to students read, etc.)
 - Sign-up sheets will be available at all family activities
 - Information on opportunities to volunteer will be included in the monthly newsletter
 - Suggestions for parent involvement will be sent home at the beginning of the school year and quarterly with report cards

5. Information about the Title I program, including available resources, parent involvement, and complaint procedures, will be shared at Back to School Night.
 - a. Parent comments and concerns may be submitted in writing to the school office or by speaking to a school administrator
6. Parents of East Salisbury School students will be provided with:
 - a. Information about the Title I program and parent involvement requirements for schools under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, at least two times a year.
 - b. Information about curriculum and proficiency levels students are expected to achieve, school and individual assessment information, and results, including an explanation of those results. This information will be shared at parent workshops, PAC meetings, PTA, Parent/Teacher conferences, in the school newsletter, and also on the school's website, with a link to www.mdk12.org.
 - c. Opportunities for at least one parent/teacher conference annually.
 - d. An interactive parent newsletter.
 - e. Interactive weekly folders containing student work.
 - f. Information on other services provided to parents to help them overcome barriers (transportation, translation, childcare, GED program, English Classes of Hispanic families)

Parent Involvement Activities

Parents will be provided with opportunities to add to their skills so that they may continue to work with their children to improve achievement.

1. *Parents Make a Difference*, a newsletter with practical ideas for parents and suggested daily activities for families will be distributed monthly.
2. East Salisbury Elementary School will have a Parent Information Center.
3. East Salisbury Elementary School will hold two Family Fun Nights each school year.
4. At convenient times East Salisbury Elementary School will hold at least one parent workshop annually to address topics of interest to parents. Parents will be surveyed to determine needs.
5. R.I.S.E. (Reading Insures Success for Everyone), a program that invites and requires parental participation daily for the duration of the child's involvement in specialized reading instruction, will be offered at East Salisbury Elementary School to identified students in grades three and four.
6. Lightspan, an interactive software program, which reinforces reading and math skills at home, will be offered to families of students in all grades.
7. Classroom teachers will send positive biannual postcards to the parents of all children in their classrooms.
8. The Maryland Parental Information Resource Center provides parents with resources through a bilingual website (www.mdpirc.org) and parent hotline 1-877-MD-PARENTS)

Integration with Other Programs

East Salisbury School (ESS) will encourage community groups to assist with developing and implementing programs that promote educational goals and support high academic achievement for all students. The following are current community group partners:

1. ESS is a Professional Development School Site for Salisbury University; also service Wor-Wic and Wilmington College
2. ESS has a faith-based partnership with Grace United Methodist Church, which provides after school snacks for neighborhood children at their *Kid Cafe*.
3. Chick-Fil-A provides incentives to support various programs.
4. The Wicomico County Bookmobile visits East Salisbury every three weeks
5. The Comprehensive Family Center at East Salisbury provides before and after school child care and a summer program and partners with the STARS after school program. The Family Center hosts Family Game Nights, Family Support Groups, Family Field Trips, and workshops designed to provide parents with the skills necessary to help their children achieve academic success. The Title I Staff will provide resources and training for parent workshops.
6. In addition to other agencies and community groups, the Comprehensive Family Center at East Salisbury partners with:
 - a. Salisbury Neighborhood Housing Service to provide workshops on home ownership and money management for parents.
 - b. Habitat for Humanity, which holds workshops to provide information for parents on homes being built in the community.
 - c. Grace United Methodist Church in coordinating a weekend program for students
 - d. Wicomico County Health Department
 - e. Children's Dental Clinic

Evaluation

Assessing the effectiveness of the East Salisbury School Title I Parental Involvement Policy in improving the academic quality of East Salisbury School will be conducted throughout the year with the involvement of parents. Measures will include:

1. Family Reading and Math Night parent evaluations
2. Attendance at Family Reading and Math Night and other parent involvement activities
3. Annual Title I program evaluation completed at the spring East Salisbury School Title I Parent Advisory Council meeting.
4. School Climate survey to be distributed and completed at the beginning and end of each school year.
5. Parent Interest Survey to be distributed and completed at the beginning of each school year.

Coordination and Support: for Title I Schools:

Program coordination and technical assistance for Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities will be provided through the efforts of the Wicomico County Title I Supervisor.

Reviewed and revised June 2009

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