

<h1>POLICY</h1>	2008	7101
	<b>Students</b>	

**Subject: Parental Involvement**

The Williamson Central School District is committed to parental involvement District-wide. In order to achieve this goal the following elements are deemed to be essential:

- Opportunities for all parents to become involved in decision-making about how the parent/family involvement programs will be designed, implemented, assessed and strengthened.
- Outreach to encourage participation of parents who might have inadequate literacy skills and/or for whom English is not their primary language.
- Regular information for parents about the objectives of educational programs and their child’s participation and progress in those programs.
- Professional development for teachers and staff to enhance their effectiveness with parents.
- Linkages with special service agencies and community groups to address key family and community issues.
- Involvement of parents of children at all ages and grade levels.
- Opportunities for parents to share in decision making regarding school policies and procedures affecting their children.
- Recognition of diverse family structures, circumstances and responsibilities, including differences that might impede parental participation. The person(s) responsible for a child may not be the child’s biological parent(s) and policies and programs should include participation by all persons interested in the child’s educational progress.

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, the Williamson Central School District will:

1. Provide assistance to parents of children served by the District 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 this part, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate to foster parental involvement;
3. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contribution 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;

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**Subject: Parental Involvement (Continued)**

4. Coordinate and integrate to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the 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;
5. 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;
6. Involve parents in the activities of Title I schools and the development of the Title I plan through participation in planning and evaluation meetings;
7. Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the Title I schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by Title I and use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and, to revise, if necessary the parental involvement policies at the District and school level;
8. The Superintendent of Schools shall develop written complaint procedures which outline a formal process for resolving complaints related to NCLB programs. (Regulation 7101).

Additionally, the Board directs that each District School with a program served with Title I funds to jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy for their building. This policy must be agreed on by such parents and describe the means for carrying out No Child Left Behind parental involvement requirements. It must also include a jointly developed school-parent compact. Furthermore, it must be shared with parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. It must also be available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

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