

# *Silver Lake Regional Middle School*

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## **District Wide Parental Involvement Policy**

### **Part 1: General expectations**

The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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 Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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 Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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 Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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 Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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 Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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.
- e) The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

**Part II: How the district will implement required district wide parental involvement policy components**

1. The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - Title I parents are invited to join the School Council at each school
  - Title I parents are invited to help develop the district parental involvement plan
  - Title I parents are invited to help develop the annual evaluation of the parent involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in district activities

2. The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - Title I parents are invited to join the School Council at each school, to become involved in developing School Improvement plans
  - Parents are invited to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the school program
3. The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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:
  - Parents are consulted for effective offering of parent conferences, Family math and English language arts evening events, and other parent involvement events, which are well attended
4. The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under all district programs by:
  - The district Title I Tutors attend the district end of term parent conferences
  - The Title I Tutors plan, develop and implement the annual spring Family math and reading event events, which are well attended, and attended by Title I parents
  - The Title I tutors confer with Title I parents at all parent involvement events on how to continue to improve parent involvement in academic improvement for all students
5. The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 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 schools. 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 district 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 survey is distributed in spring to all Title I parents to provide Title I parents with the opportunity to comment on the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy. (Silver Lake is a low incident district of limited English proficient families.)

6. The Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- The district Family math and Reading nights are very well attended and are developed and hosted by the Title I tutors.
  - Title I tutors attend the end of term parent conferences and are available to meet with parents during this parent conference time.
- a) The district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
- the State's academic content standards,
    - ✓ Title I tutors have created Title I parent Progress Reports based on the state standards. These progress reports are revised and updated regularly based on analysis of Title I student performance.
    - ✓ The Silver Lake district is in the process of developing and implementing standards-based report cards, which are report cards based on the state's academic content standards.

These standards-based report cards ensure that assessment of students is based on the state's academic content standards.

Assessment scores for grades K – 5 are “4, 3, 2, 1,” with a “3” denoting that the student has “met the standard,” and a “4” indicating that the student “exceeds the standard.”
  - the State's student academic achievement standards,
    - ✓ All parents are informed through the NCLB report card of student achievement in relation to the state's academic achievement standards.
    - ✓ The district NCLB Report Card, which reports district and school AYP status and teacher qualifications, is sent home to each family in the district.
    - ✓ Each individual student report indicating the achievement level is sent home to each parent in the fall, indicating the child's academic achievement level and the school achievement level
  - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,

- ✓ Progress reports and report cards and alternate assessment reports are sent to each child's home.
  - ✓ Superintendency Union 31 has newly implemented a standards-based report card for grades K – 5 which aligns classroom practice with state standards, and aligns classroom practice and assessments with state assessment expectations. Rubrics were developed by teachers to guide and assess practice toward the report card level of Meeting the Standard. Rubrics are in the process of being developed for grades 6.
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
    - ✓ Parents are informed in how to monitor their child's progress through regular parent conferences, through the mid-term Progress Reports, through meeting with their child's individual Title I tutor, and in meeting with Title I tutors at parent events such as the spring Family nights.
  - how to work with educators:
    - ✓ Parents are informed on how to work with teachers by regular newsletters sent home to parents, at PTO meetings in which principals inform parents of how to work with teachers, and in conferences with principals and parents
- b) The district will, with the assistance of its schools, 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:
- ✓ Regular newsletters are sent home to parents by each principal with information on how to work with children to improve their academic performance,
  - ✓ Math development and literacy training are provided to parents at each school's spring evening Family night.
  - ✓ Regarding use of technology and parental involvement by using technology, the district has invested in the self-paced, individualized learning software application Study Island. This software is aligned with the state standards and provides timely feedback to students on correct answers, incorporating explanations of answers so that the student learns from the software answers. Students have home access to Study Island use, and are asked to use Study Island at home. In this way, parent involvement is encouraged through school notes home asking parents to have their children use Study Island at home to improve their skills and understandings in math and ELA.
  - ✓ In addition to the Study Island software application, our computer teachers have identified strong, engaging math and ELA web sites that students are encouraged to use at home to develop math and ELA skills and understandings. Students use these programs during their school day computer lab time, and are encouraged to extend this

practice to home, and parents are provided with the information to support student use of this technology at home.

- ✓ Our newly purchased recent editions of our elementary math program have web sites that allow students to practice their math material at home, and teachers provide parents with this web site information.
- c) The district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, 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:
- ✓ Staff and administrators are encouraged to make home contact regularly, when a child is successful in class and also when a child is struggling
- d) The district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with all school 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:
- ✓ The Silver Lake Regional School District integrates all parent involvement policy and actions with the whole school and with all special programs such as our public preschool.
- e) The district 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:
- ✓ Silver Lake does has a limited ESL population. All communications sent home regarding notices of meetings, parent programs, and other activities are sent in an easy to understand format, and often in the form of a simple colored flyer which will attract the attention of parents

### **Part III: Discretionary district wide parental involvement policy components**

NOTE: The District wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, 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:

- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

- ✓ Parent involvement in Silver Lake district schools is strong. Schools benefit from parent volunteers to accompany children on educational field trips, to assist in classrooms, to assist in school libraries, and to help with other school educational activities
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education, 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;
  - ✓ School meetings and school activities are deliberately scheduled to provide the best times and the most convenient times for parents, and to provide alternative times for such involvement such as parent conferences
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
  - ✓ The Silver Lake Regional School District has a variety of activities to involve parents. Various means are: assisting in the school library and in classrooms, parent-teacher conferences, assisting in classrooms with special projects and small group learning activities, means for parents to assist with helping teachers in varied projects, chorus and plays and other child performances are held during the school days and in evenings, assisting in classrooms with special projects and small group learning activities, the very well attended spring Family nights held in each school

#### **Part IV: Adoption**

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by having Title I parents review this policy and approve of it.

This policy is updated annually by Silver Lake Regional School District and Massachusetts School Superintendency Union No. 31 and will be in effect for the period of September, 2008-June, 2011. The policy is available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on each schools website.

*Joy Blackwood*

Title I Director/ Assistant Superintendent

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