

Washington Math/Science Institute

Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. DESCRIPTION OF HOW WASHINGTON MSI WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Washington MSI is committed to the goal of providing the highest quality education to prepare our students for academic, emotional and social success. We want to establish a strong commitment to partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. Parents play an extremely important role as the child's first teacher. Parental involvement with your child and school is critical to a student's success every step along the way. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I Program to reach grade level goals. Washington MSI intends to include parents in all aspects of the Title I Program. The goal is that the school-home partnership will help all students in our school succeed.

A. Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

Parents, members of the community and school staff will meet to discuss the implementation of the parental involvement policy. Washington MSI will actively recruit participation through various avenues of publicity, such as newsletters, teachers and other parent recommendations. The Campus Education Improvement Committee (CEIC) and Parent Teacher Association (PTA) will serve as advisory committees.

B. Annual Meetings for Title I Parents

Washington MSI will hold meetings for parents during each school year. Parents will be informed of Title I guidelines and the variations from the previous year's program. Copies of the campus 2011-2012 parent involvement policy will be distributed. Parents will be encouraged to become involved in the revising and updating the policy as deemed necessary. We will use the results of the evaluation of parent surveys in determining strategies for school improvement in revising the parental involvement policy at the campus level. The meetings will be held at convenient times and locations as agreed upon by all concerned parties. Translation for Spanish speaking parents will be available. Participation will be encouraged through notification in parent newsletters, Parent Link communication system and school marquee.

C. School – Parent Compacts

In accordance with Title I regulations, each school must develop a parent-student compact with the parents of students participating in the

program. The compact will enable the school and parents to share the responsibility for student performance and success. The compact will explain how students, parents and staff will share the responsibility for promoting student achievement. Members of the school's CEIC and PTA will be consulted in the design and implementation of the compact. All parents will be given a copy of the compact detailing the responsibilities that teachers, parents and students have in helping students accomplish their goals. Students' goals will vary per grade level. Parents, teachers and students will sign the compact. Parents will be encouraged to discuss the contents of the compact with their child.

D. Types of Parent Involvement

In order to meet the needs of all stake holders, parents and community members will be involved in the development of the Washington MSI Campus Improvement Plan. The Campus Improvement Plan will be available online at the campus website <http://midlandisd.schoolwires.net/washington>. Hard copies will be available upon request in the office. Parental involvement activities will be fully integrated into the Campus Improvement Plan process for academic accountability. Elements of this plan will include:

1. **Regular Communication with Parents:** In order to build consistent and effective communication between the home and the school, regular communication will include:

- School Newsletters
- School Calendars
- Parent and Student Handbook
- Special Event Notices
- Progress Reports
- Report Cards
- School-Parent Compact
- PTA Meetings/Programs
- CEIC Meetings
- District, Campus and Teacher Websites
- Telephone Conferences
- School Assemblies
- Parent Link

2. **Parent Information and Training Nights:** These are opportunities to help parents develop skills to use at home to support their children's academic efforts and social development. They provide parents with techniques and strategies they may utilize to improve their children's academic success and assist with learning at home. Some of these activities may include:

- Math & Science Night
- Family Reading Night
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent Orientation
- Meet The Teacher Event
- K-2 Reading Tips for Parents
- PTA Parent Meetings
- Cinnamon Rolls with Dad
- STAAR Parent Meetings
- Annual Title I Parent Meeting
- Parent Meetings with Counselor
- READ180/SYSTEM 44 Informational Parent Meeting

3. **Parent Volunteer Opportunities:** Washington MSI will provide multiple opportunities for parents who would like to volunteer in the school. Parents are always welcome to come in to the school to be a part of routine daily activities and/or special events. A meeting will be held at the beginning of each year to provide an orientation for parents who wish to volunteer in the school. Examples of parent volunteer opportunities are:
- Teacher Assistant
 - Mentor
 - Take Home Projects
 - Special Events
 - Field Trip Chaperones
 - Volunteer in Support Services (library, office, etc.)

E. Translation Services

Spanish translation services are available within the school. Written communication from school to home shall be provided in Spanish and English.

F. Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community

The community will be consulted in the design and implementation of Title I Program. Student needs will be assessed through questionnaires and parental suggestions targeted at creating a successful school environment. Our school will welcome and promote parental involvement suggestions from parents. The PTA will generate ideas to involve parents in the success of our students. Parent workshops and programs will be tailored to meet the unique student and parent needs of our stakeholders and the community. Parents will be informed of involvement activities through the newsletters and reminder notices. Parents may call our local school office at any time to express an interest or make suggestion about workshops that could be offered.

G. Evaluation

Parents will be asked to give input about the effectiveness of the Title I Parental Involvement Program and offer suggestions for improvement. The evaluation procedure will include assessment of successes in the parent involvement policy, as well as, recommendations for improvement in emergent areas. Our school will conduct an ongoing assessment of parent involvement initiatives. These assessment opportunities will allow the school to evaluate the effectiveness of parent involvement initiatives and the level of responsiveness to parents' concerns. Examples of assessment opportunities that would be appropriate are:

- Responses to the annual parent surveys
- Increase in the number of parents involved in school activities
- Signed School-Parent Compacts
- Attendance at parent teacher conferences
- Attendance at learning experiences for parents

PART II. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Washington MSI agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Consistent with section 1118, the school will work to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118 (d) of the ESEA. (See Attachment)
- The school will notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- If the school-wide program plan for Title I, Part A, developed under 1114 (b) of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act), is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the local education agency (Midland Independent School District).
- The school will build its own and the 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.
- The school will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) as the parents may request.
- The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and 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.*

PART III. ADOPTION

The Washington MSI 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 the meeting minutes.

This policy was adopted by the Washington MSI Campus Improvement Educational Committee on May 25, 2011 and will be in effect for the period of 2011-2012 school year. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2011.

Principal

Date

Washington MSI staff invites parents to offer suggestions for improving our efforts to involve parents in meaningful ways. Please call Nicole Gabriel, Principal at 432-689-1570 if you have any suggestions.