

# **MOUNT SINAI UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

The Mount Sinai School District believes that parental/guardian involvement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations.

To assure compliance with federal No Child Left Behind guidelines, the District recognizes the rights of parents/guardians to be fully informed of all information relevant to their children who participate in programs and projects funded by Title I. (Title I, of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 and No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, provides school districts with extra resources to help improve instruction in schools meeting Title I eligibility requirements.) The District shall ensure parental involvement in these programs and projects by :

a) involving parents in the joint development of the Title I Plan by convening an annual meeting attended by parents of students in Title I programs, as well as school Title I staff, administrators, and other interested persons, to discuss the Title I program plan, review implementation of the Title I plan, and invite suggestions for improvement

b) providing the coordination, technical assistance, and support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement by:

- making funds available to schools for parent correspondence
- giving parents web access to the district's student information system via a parent portal so they may monitor their child's daily performance (including classwork, homework, test and quiz grades)
- providing specific communications to parents through the use of two school newsletters, the Mount Sinai Mirror and the Snapshot
- providing parents with an annual school calendar which lists the dates of all standardized tests, state assessments and college entrance exams as well as makeup dates
- mailing home results of all state assessments with an explanation of the results
- providing opportunities for regular meetings of parents/guardians and AIS teachers
- providing schools with a site license to Quia, a web-based program that parents can use in many cases to verify their child's class work and homework
- allocating district resources to individual schools to support parent involvement activities and programs based upon a school's particular needs
- providing specific communications to parents through the use of the district web page and calendar regarding times of regularly scheduled

Board of Education meetings, which provide opportunities for input and comment

- through the district web site, providing all parents with the email addresses of every faculty member to facilitate correspondence with their child's teachers

c) supporting a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. The district shall:

- provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or LEA, 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
- provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
- 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;
- coordinate and integrate to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, and Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the parent 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
- 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

d) evaluating annually the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of the schools (including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by Title I), using the findings to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and revising, if necessary, the parental involvement policies at the school level

e) encouraging parents to become involved in the activities of the schools by

- providing opportunities to meet with teachers and review educational records regarding their child's progress in school through parent-teacher conferences and

- school-sponsored information sessions regarding curriculum, instruction and assessment in the school
- communicating through back-to-school nights, parent-school enrichment events, billboards at either end of the campus, electronic and print media

In addition to the above, each of the three schools within the District shall establish building Level school/parent involvement policies in accordance with Section 1118(b). Such school/parent policies shall include school-parent compacts outlining how parents and the entire school staff will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the state's high standards.