

Garfield Elementary Title I Parent Policy 2014-2015

Garfield Elementary invites parents to be involved in the school's development of a plan for improvement. Recognizing that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement, we seek to involve parents in a variety of ways to ensure a quality home school connection. Classroom teachers, volunteer coordinator, school counselor, Grant Wood Area Education Agency personnel and administration work collaboratively to offer parents opportunities to be actively involved with the learning process both in and outside the school building. The school encourages parent involvement and supports this partnership through providing information about standards and assessments; providing training and materials for parents to help their children; educating school personnel about involving parents and the value of parent contributions; and developing roles for community organizations and businesses to work with our students and our parents.

1. This policy is first reviewed and finalized by the building leadership team and the Parent Teacher Association.
2. The policy is then publicized in the building's monthly newsletter and specific opportunities are publicized through classroom newsletters, personal contacts and, at times, through an all school phone contact.
3. The policy will be adopted as part of the school handbook beginning in the fall of 2010 and be given to every family at the beginning of the school year.
4. Two annual meetings will be held for all parents to learn more about 'in school' opportunities for supporting learning efforts ~ both with their own children and/or as a school volunteer and about the requirements of Title 1. Notification for these meetings will be sent in the building newsletter and through school fliers.
5. Teachers review ideas for assisting parents in supporting learning at home during conferences twice a year.
6. Parents receive an explanation of the school's academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the expected proficiency levels through various reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.
7. Parents will be invited and included in the planning, review, and improvement of each year's program design in April by completing a survey and providing feedback.
8. A school/parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. It is shared at the first conference of the school year and is reviewed at the annual meetings and second conference. Each child, parent, teacher and principal is asked to sign the compact.
9. Parents are encouraged to participate as volunteers in the school setting. The building's instructional coach will offer instruction and practice for working effectively with small groups of students both in the area of reading and math. Reports on educational issues, books, and videos are available to parents by contacting the school's counselor.
10. An annual evaluation of the parental involvement policy shall be conducted to determine its effectiveness. Findings will be used to design strategies for school

improvement and revision of policies. The annual spring meetings will serve as the site for the discussions of program adjustments.

The ultimate goal of our Title 1 support program is to enhance instruction, improve the diagnosis of need and provide effective timely strategies to help all students achieve at high rates. It is critical that all stakeholders (students, parents, educators, and communities) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this purpose. As these partnerships are mutually beneficial, developing cooperative efforts will ensure improved academic achievement for all students.

2014-2015 Title I School Improvement Building Leadership Team

Joy Long – Principal
Laurie Moody – Counselor
Karen Wildhagen – Instructional Design Strategist
Gretchen Lawyer-Title 1 Teacher
Cherien Kimball-Classroom
Brooke Speraw-Classroom
Joslin Hanna-Special Education Facilitator
Parent – Stephanie Hoge