York Elementary School

Title I Parent Involvement School Policy

York Elementary School Mission Statement

“The mission of York Elementary is to provide educational opportunities in a safe environment that develops positive character and appropriate academic skills. The staff, parents, and students acknowledge and accept this responsibility.”

York Elementary School has adopted and intends to follow the following Title I parent involvement policy guidelines in accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. This policy has been developed jointly and in agreement with Title I parents. The policy will be distributed to parents of students participating in Title I. The Title I program is a federally funded program to assist students in reading and/or math. Students in this program receive supplemental instruction from a highly qualified teacher. Realizing that student success depends not only on the school and the Title I program, but also on parent involvement, we will provide the following:

1. Convene an annual meeting at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children in REACH shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school’s participation in Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirement of such and the right of the parents to be involved. This meeting is scheduled during the Fall. Kindergarten parents are given information concerning the Title I program at the kindergarten open house in early August. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. Childcare and transportation to and from the school by teachers and/or administrators may be provided for all meetings and conferences.

2. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy. Each year parents, teachers, and administrators will convene to review, evaluate and revise the Parental Involvement Policy. Parents of Title I students are also represented on the PL221 School Improvement Team each year.

3. Provide parents with:
   A. Timely information about Title I programs. Information in the form of letters, quarterly newsletters, and special bulletins will be sent home with the students in their REACH folders. Phone call reminders are given for special meetings and conferences.
B. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The York Elementary School Improvement PL 221 Plan contains descriptions and explanations of curriculum (p. 9); explanations of assessment tools and timing (p. 10-12); and benchmarks for proficiencies (p. 27). Copies of the pages concerning curriculum, assessments, and benchmarks will be made available to parents upon request. The benchmarks and standards are discussed at the early fall parent meeting.

C. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible. Parents will be given opportunities to communicate wishes on a regular basis through frequent phone/written contacts with teachers and during parent/teacher conferences. Each child will have a REACH folder that goes home every day with information, books. The REACH teacher checks the folder regularly.

4. Include a School-Parent Compact – The School-Parent Compact will be reviewed, evaluated, and revised if necessary annually. A copy of the signed compact will be sent to the parents and one will be kept in the REACH files.

5. Build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement by:
   A. Providing assistance to parents of children served as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State’s academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. Parents will receive booklets containing the state standards for their child’s grade level upon request. Directions to find links from the York Elementary web site, if parents have internet capabilities, are provided and discussed at the early fall parent meeting and at parent conferences. Teacher created Web site links are available to help parents understand what students need to succeed, concerning the standards.
   B. Providing materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve the achievement of their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, to foster parental involvement. Parents will receive tips for reading with their children, resource lists of books and activities that they can do at home together with their children at the early fall meeting. Special activity calendars, home reading booklets, and other materials are also provided. Parents will also be encouraged to participate in the “Three for Me” program and the “Basket Ladies” volunteer sessions to become more involved in their child’s daily education.
   C. Coordinating and integrating parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, etc., and conduct
other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Head Start staff conducts parent meetings on a monthly basis and holds a meeting with the parents, kindergarten teachers and principal to ensure a smooth transition from preschool to kindergarten.

D. Inform educators, with the assistance of parents, about the value and utility of contributions from parents, and about how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, to implement and coordinate parent programs, and to build ties between parents and the school. Staff will utilize volunteer lists in their daily activities, special projects, and encourage parents to help in the classroom on a regular basis. Parent involvement programs such as the “Three for Me” program at York provide staff and parents with opportunities to collaborate in the education of each child.

E. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, are sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Translated letters and DVD’s in English and Spanish are provided for all parents before children begin school. Translated materials are provided whenever possible. Phone calls and home visits to parents without transportation or reliable contacts from school to home will ensure that parents are notified about special programs, meetings, etc.

F. Other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. Parents are invited and encouraged to become involved and support their children in all school activities and daily and special programs through the PTO “Three for Me” program. Parents are encouraged to observe in their child’s classroom and participate in their daily activities. Transportation and childcare may be arranged if necessary.