

**HOUSTON COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN
2008-2009**

The Title I Parent Involvement Plan for the Houston County School System (HCSS) is as follows:

- 1. The Houston County School System recognizes the necessity of a quality education for all children. The district further recognizes the legal and moral obligation for the implementation of such programs, and the involvement of parents/guardians of Title I students in the process. Parental Involvement shall include, but not be limited to establishing partnerships with parents and community members while encouraging their participation in the design, implementation and evaluation of the Local Educational Agency's (LEA) Title I Parent Involvement Plan and activities as outlined in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.***

2. HCSS will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its Title I schools. The intent of parental involvement activities shall be to encourage and support the combined efforts of home, school, and community in improving the educational opportunities of Title I-served students and to help them master challenging academic standards across the curriculum.

3. All Title I schools shall hold an Annual Title I Meeting at a convenient time within the first six weeks of school. During the meeting, each school is to inform parents about the guidelines, purpose, goals, and expectations of the Title I program. Parent sign-in sheets, meeting agendas and advertisements are submitted to the district office. To the extent practicable, accommodations will be made for parents with disabilities, language barriers, and other special needs.

4. Houston County School System shall establish a Title I Parent Involvement Advisory Committee. The Parent Advisory Committee will provide input regarding the LEA Title I Parent Involvement Plan, Title I Parent Involvement activities, and the expending of the Title I allocation for Parental Involvement Activities. The committee will annually review and jointly develop the districts Title I Parent Plan. A copy of the approved parent plan will be made available to all parents of students in Title I schools via the district website, Title I schools' websites and front offices. Unsatisfactory comments regarding the district plan shall be submitted to the State Education Agency.

5. HCSS shall notify parents of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) of each Title I school. Parents of students attending a Title I School, identified as Needs Improvement shall receive a written explanation regarding such status and be advised of their parental rights under NCLB. Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) may be available to students who qualify for services according to NCLB guidelines. Parents will also receive notification of Parents' Rights to Request Teacher Qualifications. General information about Title I will be made available on the HCSS website.

6. HCSS Title I will work with its schools to ensure that parents will be involved annually in the process of developing/revising the parent involvement plans and school-parent compact at the school level. The Title I office and District Parent Involvement Coordinator will provide technical assistance and/or advisement in the development of the School Parent Involvement Plan, School-Parent Compact, and parent involvement workshop and event opportunities.

7. Copies of the Title I Parent Involvement Plan and School-Parent Compact will be distributed to all parents using a variety of methods including: hard copies sent home with students, through the school's website, student handbook, Parent Resource Centers, or copies available in school's front office.

8. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. HCSS will provide required documents and pertinent information in an understandable format, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. The district's translation personnel shall translate documents in multiple languages. Further the district shall use the TransAct system for access to parent notices in multiple languages. The International Welcome Centers shall further assist parents when culture and language may be barriers.

9. A district-wide, annual parent satisfaction survey will be administered in February with results following in March. The purpose of the survey is to evaluate the effectiveness of parent involvement programs. The findings shall be considered in determining the effectiveness for increasing parent participation and identifying barriers to parent participation. All data collected shall be maintained as permanent records at the district Title I office. The data will also be considered in the revision of policies for practices at Title I schools of HCSS. Timely responses to parent suggestions shall be provided and unsatisfactory parent comments shall be submitted to the Title I office.

10. Title I schools shall communicate regularly with parents through a variety of media/methods, including but not limited to: parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops/events, Parent Resource Centers, newsletters, flyers, email, Educational Access channels, school website, call-out messenger system, school's marquee.

11. HCSS will maintain continuous communication with parents via multiple media, including HCBOE website. Whenever possible, all communication will be in an easy-to-understand language and format.

12. All Title I schools shall maintain a Parent Resource Center that will be located strategically within the school site. Schools are responsible for notifying parents about the center and its available resources. Parent Resource Centers provide learning opportunities for parents that promote literacy, parental development, information about Title I, communication and decision making.

13. Additional opportunities for parents to be involved at Title I schools shall be explained during Parent and Community Volunteer Training offered at each Title I school.

14. HCSS shall follow the statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures according to 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 that (A) parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning; (B) parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; (C) 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 Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

15. In order to build a strong capacity for parent involvement, the system has employed the following positions: a designated person for parental involvement at each Title I school, a full time Parent Involvement Coordinator at the district level, and staffing of the Perry Family Literacy Center.

16. HCSS uses the framework for parental involvement as prescribed by the National Network of Partnership Schools (NNPS)-*School, Family, and Community Partnerships, Thousand Oaks, CA., 2002*. The Houston County School System and all Title I schools are members of NNPS. HCSS and its schools are building capacity for parental involvement by implementing Parent Action Teams and developing one-year action plans that outline opportunities designed to increase and expand parental involvement activities based on the NNPS six keys of involvement. The NNPS six keys of involvement are:

1. Parenting- Help all families establish home environments to support children as students.
2. Communicating – Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children’s progress.
3. Volunteering – Recruit and organize parent help and support.
4. Learning at Home – Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, decisions, and planning.
5. Decision Making – Include in school decisions, develop parent leaders and representatives.
6. Collaborating with Community – Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development.

17. Each Title I school in the district shall have a Parent Action Team and shall develop a one-year action plan annually. The Parent Action Team shall adequately represent parents of participating children. Title I schools will involve parents in an ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, budget and implementation of programs under Title I.

18. Title I schools with assistance from the District Parent Involvement Coordinator shall plan parent workshops and activities, along with volunteer opportunities on a regular basis and at various times and to the extent practicable provide services to eliminate parental involvement barriers. HCSS requires each title school to have at a minimum seven (7) parent-focused academic based activities a year. These events will assist parents in understanding topics such as the State’s academic content standards, the State’s student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor their child’s progress, and how to work with educators. Title schools will also offer events that help build a welcoming climate and relationship between families and schools.

19. HCSS will provide technical assistance and other support to each Title I school as needed. This ensures the effective planning and implementation of parent involvement activities. HCSS shall provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

20. To the extent feasible and appropriate, the HCSS coordinates and integrates parent involvement with other programs such as: Head Start, Even Start, Reading Recovery, Migrant, Homeless, and Preschool programs.

21. HCSS and its Title I schools embrace its students, parents, and community. Administrators, faculty and staff will collaborate with businesses and community-based organizations to provide resources and networks for parents and students.

22. HCSS shall reserve one percent of district allocation, if \$500,000 or more, for parent involvement.