

DBS CODE 1110.2

Portions can be struck out because we have recently approved policy 6172.5 which addresses this. This will eliminate a redundancy.

INSTRUCTION

Parent Involvement/Title I Parental Involvement

The Somers Board of Education encourages the regular and active participation of all parents in their child's education. We recognize that an excellent education for all students requires a cooperative effort between the school and parents.

In this policy, the word "parent" means:

- A natural or adoptive parent of a child;
- A legal guardian;
- A foster parent, if the foster parent has been given the right to make educational decisions on the child's behalf.

The Somers Public Schools will maintain a responsive and welcoming environment for all parents and the families of Somers students, and assure that various mechanisms for home-school communication keep parents well informed about school events, needs, awards, etc. The schools shall communicate in language and in a format easily understood by non-educators. For non-English speaking parents, every effort will be made to provide a translation of home-school communications.

The district and board encourage parents to be partners in educational decision-making for their children. The school involves parents in decisions about changes in educational programming, invites parents to participate in enrichment and cultural events, and offers opportunities for parents to attend special class events.

The district encourages strong, continuing parental involvement through organizations such as the PTA, PTSA, and Title I Parents' Committee, and volunteerism in the schools. The schools will make space and equipment such as projectors available for parent meetings or parent education programs. Any such program shall be developed with/by parent representatives to help assure that programs are an appropriate match for parents' expressed needs and to help identify any barriers to participation that can be addressed to increase accessibility.

This policy also addresses the legal requirement for a policy specifically addressing parental involvement for children who receive Title I services. Pursuant to the law, an annual meeting of all Title I parents will be held to provide parents with an opportunity to design, develop, and evaluate the Title I program for the next school year. Additional meetings will be held periodically each year to provide information about curriculum, assessment, expected proficiency levels, and strategies to employ at home to assist learning. Also, in compliance with the law, the school shall collaborate with parents in the development of a "School-Parent Compact", which outlines how the parents and school share responsibility for increased student learning, and will review the compact yearly to make any necessary revisions. This compact shall:

- Outline what communication is expected between school and home on an on-going basis;
- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality instruction and curriculum in an environment that supports high levels of student learning, and
- Describe the ways in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, possibly including homework completion and monitoring, setting appropriate limits on activities that may have an impact on homework completion or reading (such as television), participating in parent conferences, or reading communications from the school.

When a student is selected for Title I services or continues to receive services the next school year, the principal shall send a written explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program, a set of objectives to be addressed, and a description of the services to be provided. Each school will send a Title I progress report with regularly scheduled classroom reports detailing students' progress toward attainment of their learning objectives. Title I parent conferences will be held during regularly scheduled school conference periods.

Legal Reference: PL 107-110. "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001," Title I—Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged, Sec. 1118.

Adopted: 10/23/2006