



Department of Education

Policies and Procedures

Policy Title:	<i>Atlanta Area School for the Deaf Parental Involvement Policy/Plan</i>		
Policy Number:			
Release Date:	09-25-08	Last Revised:	07/2010

Purpose

It is our belief that school, family, and community collaboration promote student achievement and set the stage for our students to be life-long learners. Parents play an extremely important role as a child's first teacher. Parental support for a child and for the school is critical to a child's success at every step along the way. The intent of this policy is to result in consciously doing those things already in practice in a more efficient, consistent, and effective manner as well as generating new ways of strengthening the partnership.

Research has established a clear and positive relationship between parental involvement in education and the progress students make in school as well as students' attitudes toward learning.

Title I has long recognized the importance of parental involvement. The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Section 118 of the Title I, Part A of the ESEA, states the goal and specific requirements of parental involvement.

The Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every child. To realize this goal, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home can work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. AASD's parental involvement plan is intended to strengthen this partnership.

Policy/Plan

The Atlanta Area School for the Deaf's Title I Parent Involvement program will:

- Provide transition training and information to parents and students entering kindergarten, middle school, and high school.
- Provide transition training and information to parents and students exiting the program (graduating).
- Conduct an annual evaluation, with parental input, to measure the effectiveness of the procedures of the Parent Involvement program and to identify barriers to ensure greater parent participation in school activities.

- Utilize a variety of strategies including: Parent Involvement Policy/Plan, an annual meeting with flexible times, staff and parent training, communication in a form and language that can be understood, parent literacy opportunities, workshops, surveys, evaluation and other ideas.

Parent Involvement Plan

Involvement of Parents in Development of Plan

Administrative staff will support efforts to provide opportunities for parents to attend a school-based, annual meeting to review assessment data. Parents will be given the opportunity through surveys and conferences to contribute recommendations for consideration by AASD. Parents will be invited to attend school improvement council meetings to review and make recommendations to the Title I Plan, which is developed in conjunction with the School Improvement Plan.

Planning and Implementation of the Parental Involvement Program

Administrative staff, AASD's School Council, and teachers will work together in planning effective parent involvement activities such as workshops, programs, literacy training and volunteer training. Fall orientation and surveys at the school along with a Needs Assessment will provide opportunities for parent input in developing a parent involvement agenda for the school year.

Building the School's Capacity for Strong Parental Involvement

- Hold an annual orientation for parents at the school to explain the joint development of the Title 1 and School Improvement Plan for parent involvement.
- Coordinate and collaborate parent involvement activities with all departments throughout the school.
- Offer assistance and support school to staff and parent representatives in their effort to promote involvement activities and outreach.
- Provide materials for checkout, training, and resources for parent involvement activities to help improve their child's achievement.
- Enhance regular communication with parents through phone/video phone calls, e-mails, journals, conferences and home visits.
- Provide assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the state's Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) and achievement standards, the assessments being used, the requirements of Title I, Part A, the process of school review and improvement, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve achievement.
- Work with staff to coordinate technical assistance and other necessary support and provide resources to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs using STEPS.
- 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 using the Panther Pouch.
- The sharing of student performance and assessment results will be accomplished through school report cards, student report cards, AASD's website, test results reports, progress reports, and conferences.
- Make all efforts to insure parent participation in the initial Individual Education Plan (IEP), the annual Individual Education Plan (IEP), and Behavior Intervention Plans (BIPs).

Coordination/Integration of Parental Involvement

A fall meeting of representatives of Title 1 and School Council is planned to coordinate and integrate parent involvement activities reflecting the goals of No Child Left Behind (NCLB).

Annual Evaluation of the Parental Involvement Plan

An annual climate survey will provide feedback from parents regarding the parent involvement program. A school-based, annual meeting will be conducted to review and evaluate the parent involvement program and make recommendations.

Identification of Barriers to Greater Parent Participation

Barriers to parent involvement will be identified through teacher conferences, home visits, surveys, and parent contact.

**Authority and/or
Cross-Reference**

- Title 1, General Guidelines for Implementing in Georgia Schools
- No Child Left Behind Act of 2001
- Atlanta Area School for the Deaf's Mission and Beliefs