

Birchwood Intermediate School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Birchwood Intermediate School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Birchwood Intermediate School will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Birchwood Intermediate School will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The Birchwood Intermediate School will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and the District will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The Birchwood Intermediate School will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with 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—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that 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 ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Birchwood Intermediate School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Confer with parent representatives from school site based management teams (SBMs), PTA members, and parent volunteers to gather parental input.
 - Conduct an annual review of the existing school wide involvement policy through feedback from parent members of the school community.
2. The Birchwood Intermediate School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - In the event that a school is cited for improvement, the school will notify parents, with assistance from the district; whose children attend a school identified as an improvement school and will follow all the steps required by the regulations.
3. The Birchwood Intermediate School will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Primary program @ Oakwood (grades K-2), Project Excel:
 - Coordinating transitions from primary to intermediate school through working with the building administration, teachers, and support staff through reviewing assessments and portfolios of students transitioning to 3rd grade;
 - Coordinating with Project Excel, scheduling informational sessions about ways for parents to strengthen parent communication with the school;
 - Collaborate among South Huntington primary schools concerning issues of curriculum, character education, and parent involvement.
4. The Birchwood Intermediate School will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental.
 - Based on parent feedback gathered from SBM teams and PTA members, each school will develop practices to address the issues identified within the involvement policies.

5. The Birchwood Intermediate School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The Birchwood Intermediate School will provide assistance to parents of children in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:
 - Information will be provided to parents explaining academic assessments shared during the year through any of the following: presentations, literature, newsletters, and parent conferences.
 - Information concerning parent-teacher conferences and working with educators will be provided prior to scheduling conferences and will be discussed in parent meetings.
 - Information will be provided to parents describing Title I requirements and activities and programs at their child's school

B. The Birchwood Intermediate School will provide materials and training, with the assistance from the district, to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- The school will offer various workshops/classes to improve student achievement:
 - Workshops on Next Gen Standards
 - Hosting math information nights
 - Hosting ENL information/family nights
 - AIS Reading Workshops

C. The Birchwood Intermediate School will, with the assistance of its district and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- The school will confer and seek advisement from PTA representatives to generate ideas for ways to connect with parents.
- Administrators and instructional leaders will seek literature and workshops on parent involvement practices through conferences and other creditable agencies.

D. The Birchwood Intermediate School to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Coordinating activities with the school's PTA organization and teachers to support reading for all students including those receiving Title I services

E. Birchwood Intermediate School will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- The school will work with district level personnel to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs/meetings is comprehensible and available in alternative formats upon request and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- Parent information and resources will be available on the school's webpage, which is accessible through the district website, www.shufsd.org.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, the Birchwood Intermediate School will:

- provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.