

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Northern Cambria Elementary School

Section 1118 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 requires each school district that receives Title I funds to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents.

1. Statement of Purpose

A major goal of the Northern Cambria Elementary School Wide Title I program is to encourage greater involvement of parents in the education of their children by developing strong partnerships with teachers, principals, other staff, the community and their school. The board shall solicit parental involvement through the implementation of programs, activities and procedures designed to enhance the involvement of parents in the educational process. Such activities shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of district children including children with limited English proficiency, children with disabilities, migratory children and Title I children.

Each school district that receives Title I funds shall develop jointly with, agree upon, and distribute to parents of participating children, a written parental involvement policy establishing the expectations for parental involvement and describing how the school district will involve parents in the joint development of the plan.

The Northern Cambria Elementary School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child. The child benefits if the school and home form a partnership promoting high expectations for our children. Parents are the children's first teachers. Parents' support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way. Northern Cambria Elementary School intends to include parents in all aspects of the school's Title I Program. The goal is a strong school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed and insure that Every Student Succeeds.

2. Meetings for Parents

Parents are encouraged to attend Open House in September. Parent/Teacher Conference Days will follow the end of the 2nd, and 3rd 9 week marking periods. The conferences will be held during the day and into the evening to accommodate parent schedules. If this is not accommodating to the parents, they are able to schedule a conference with the teacher at their convenience.

Section 1114 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015, states that at a School Wide Program, such as at Northern Cambria, parents and staff will jointly develop the School Wide Program Plan. This meeting is held at the end of each year to determine the needs of the school from parent input. Parents have the right to request opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to your child's education.

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Parents are invited to participate in the development of the Northern Cambria School-Parent Compact. Both the staff and parents will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement. This meeting will also be held in the spring to implement for the upcoming school year.

3. Types of Parent Involvement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their child's education. Northern Cambria Elementary School values both at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community. Reading to children at home, talking with them, providing an at-home study period, monitoring the TV programs, and making sure homework assignments are complete are as important as volunteering at school and serving on committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership that will help all our children succeed. For additional ways parents can become involved, parents should check with the child's classroom teacher, principal, PTO or Federal Programs coordinator.

Pre-School parents are encouraged to volunteer in the classroom and be accessible for home visits. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the classroom teachers, specialists, and the Title I staff by using the daily planners, phone calls, and email. Parents are encouraged to become involved in the PTO (Parent Teacher Organization) and attend the Parent Involvement events. Parents are invited to eat lunch with their children any regular school day conditional to following school rules and policies.

4. Staff-Parent Communication

The Northern Cambria School District will provide parents of children participating in programs involving Title I reading teachers and/or paraprofessionals with timely notification. Parents will receive a letter from the Title I teachers at the beginning of the school year or when they first enter the program, stating that their child will be receiving Title I support. This letter will include an explanation of the curriculum, assessments, progress monitoring, and proficiency levels that are included in the programs.

Communication will be made through telephone calls, letters, email, daily planners, parent-teacher conferences or Sapphire Community Portal. Parents are encouraged to communicate with their child's teacher on a regular basis. Teachers are encouraged to communicate with parents when children are experiencing success as well as when they are having difficulties. Parents and staff will also communicate via the student planners.

If parents have questions or need assistance in understanding the state's academic content standards, student achievement standards, local academic assessment, and or how to monitor your child's progress for the improvement of your child's achievement, please do not hesitate to ask questions at any of the meetings referenced above. The Title I teachers and administrators are here to help answer any of these questions as well. Their contact information is listed below.

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Building Principal/Title I Staff Contact Information

Mrs. Rebecca Roberts – Elementary/Middle School Principal – rroberts@ncsd.k12.pa.us

Mrs. Karalyn Arotin – Title I Reading Specialist K-2; Federal Programs Coordinator – karotin@ncsd.k12.pa.us

Mrs. Jill Banik – Title I Reading Specialist – Grades 3 & 4 – jbanik@ncsd.k12.pa.us

5. Coordination, Technical Assistance, and Other Support

The Administrative Staff, District Title I Staff, and School Board shall provide coordination, technical assistance and support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement. Coordination of services will include programs at Learning Lamp, IU08, Health and Human Services and other outside agencies affiliated with the district.

6. Continuation of Parent Involvement Activities

The following parent involvement activities will continue through the support of the district staff and Title I staff.

- Kindergarten – Kindergarten handbooks are distributed to all parents of students entering the program. All parents attending Kindergarten Orientation will review the handbook with the Elementary Counselor.
- Grades K – 4 – Hold parent conferences as per the school calendar.
- Parent workshops will be held annually. A math and a literacy event will occur in the fall of this year. A family literacy event will also be held annually. Parents are able to bring their children to these events and childcare will be provided for any families who need it. Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities including transportation, childcare, and home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Grades 1-4 – Students receive daily planners each year. These planners contain a weekly calendar and a section for parent communication. These planners will continue to be used as a home-school communication tool. Parents and teachers exchange information on a daily basis or as needed.
- Grades K-4 – Letters, flyers, and packets are sent home to assist with all core academic subjects. Parents have access to Sapphire Community Portal.
Grades K-4 – Parent surveys will be available at conferences or sent home to elicit feedback in order to help make decisions about their child's education.
- PTO (Parent/Teacher/Organization) works to promote parental involvement and provides a variety of activities throughout each school year.
- Students will be awarded a homework pass good for the evening of the event for approved evening events that are attended by the student and parents in order to encourage parents' attendance.

Revised August 2016