



# MERRILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

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## Title I LEA Family Involvement Policy Merrillville Community School Corporation

The following outline is in compliance with the legal requirements of the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (PL 107-110, Section 1118). The document represents joint development with families, teachers, and principals. The policy will be available to all families of children participating in Title I.

The purpose of Merrillville Community School Corporation's Title I Program is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach at a minimum, proficiency on challenging State academic achievement standards and state assessments. We value the role families play as their child's first teacher and the influences of their continued support to promote higher student academic achievement and school performance. Title I at the district level, referred to as the Local Education Agency (LEA), will support each participating Title I school to form a partnership with their families and the community to develop a shared responsibility for student academic achievement and school performance so that young people emerge from the Merrillville Community School Corporation qualified to be productive citizens.

1. Families will have an opportunity to assist in developing the district plan, review the Title I program and make suggestions for improvement. To accomplish this, the LEA, or school district, will begin by assisting each Title I school in arranging an annual orientation meeting for families to inform them of the following:

- Title I objectives
- Instructional methods
- The student selection process
- Test scores and how the schools are identified for improvement (section 1116)
- Family rights to request information about the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals in their school (section 1119).

2. The LEA will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other necessary support to Title I schools as they plan and implement effective family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The LEA will provide support by:

- Being available for guidance and/or advice as meetings are organized at the building level (A LEA Staff member will attempt to attend at least one of these meetings at each Title I school).

- Providing guidance in the development of building level family involvement policies and school-family compacts.
- Providing recommendations regarding training and family literature and materials.

3. In order to promote the schools' and families' capacity to form a strong partnership and work towards higher student achievement, the LEA will support each Title I school by:

- Providing guidance as the Title I schools assist families in understanding such topics as the State's student academic standards and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Encouraging teachers to work together with families as equal partners to implement and coordinate family programs to build ties between the family and the school.
- Encouraging schools to promote communication through family-teacher conferences, progress reports, and opportunities for observation of classroom activities.
- Encouraging schools to provide materials and information, such as literacy training to help families in working with their children at home.
- Encouraging the education of teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions families can make as classroom volunteers, sharing skills and interests and encouraging other families.
- Making information available in a format and, to the extent possible, in language families can understand.
- Coordinating and integrating family involvement strategies under Title I with strategies under other programs such as Head Start, Reading First, Parents as teachers, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs
- Providing other reasonable support that families may request, to the extent possible.

4. The LEA will conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the district family involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools. The LEA and families will work together to determine:

- Barriers which may limit family participation
- Strategies that can be implemented that will lead to more effective and increased family involvement and family input
- Necessary revisions of the family involvement policies

Spr. 09 Family Input Meeting- No Revisions  
 Spr. 10 Family Input Meeting- No Revisions  
 Spr. 11 Family Input Meeting- No Revisions  
 Spr. 12 Family Input Meeting- No Revisions  
 Spr. 13 Family Input Meeting- No Revisions  
 Spr. 14 Family Input Meeting – No Revisions  
 Spr. 15 Family Input Meeting – No Revisions  
 Spr. 16 Family