



Raising Individual Student Excellence - Grades K-8

Parental Involvement Plan 2009-2010



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Mission Statement

The goal of RISE Academy is to build young scientist through a concentrated science and technology - focused curriculum. Students will begin intense science and math instruction in the primary grades, connect with science and society and become candidates for higher level courses in middle and high school.

RISE Academy School of Science & Technology is committed to providing quality education for every child. Our commitment is to include parents in all aspects of the Title I Program, following all requirements of the Title I, Part A regulations.

RISE Academy School of Science and Technology understands the importance of preparing young minds for the road ahead. However, we cannot do it alone. We rely on partnerships with businesses and the community as a whole to improve education in science, mathematics, and technology. In order to be successful in preparing and challenging our students, we believe that a partnership between parents and our school is imperative.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

RISE Academy agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Consistent with section 1118, the school will work to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- Schools will notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the 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 language parents understand.

- If the school-wide program plan to Title I, Part A, developed under section 1114(b) of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the Broward County School District.
- The 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 will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school will build its own and the parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.
- The school will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 of the ESEA as the parents may request.
- The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and 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:

1. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
2. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
3. 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

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. **RISE Academy** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school parental involvement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:

Each parent will receive a copy of the RISE Academy Parent Involvement Policy as well as a compact to sign, along with the teacher and student. The RISE Academy staff meets regularly with parents during PTO, Governing Board, SAC Committees. All of these have agendas as well as minutes of the meetings and discussions that take place. At these meetings, we ask for involvement in planning, designing, and incorporating the School

Improvement Plan. We ask parents to discuss issues and concerns with us so that we can make improvements as well as celebrate our successes together.

2. **RISE Academy** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA: Numerous parents have been effectively involved in RISE Academy 's events, activities, and programs, including fundraisers, mentoring, monthly celebrations, field trips, Family Curriculum Nights, Book Fairs, and a plethora of other family events. We provide as many opportunities for parental involvement as possible since research shows that a large degree of involved parents enables more students to achieve success. Review is on-going and we speak about the planning process at all PTO executive meetings as well as regular meetings.
3. **RISE Academy** will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a time convenient for parents and will offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs to this meeting, and will encourage them to attend, by: flyers, phone calls, and personal visits. Meetings will be held for: Open House (Initial welcome and information that we are a Title I School) and RISE Academy Parent Information Night.
4. **RISE Academy** will provide parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet by holding grade level open house evenings, curriculum evenings, and providing the parents with a report card handbook that explains proficiency levels, etc.
5. **RISE Academy** will at the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible by: meeting with parents, telephone conference calls and arranging meetings with all involved. There are scheduled parent conferences held throughout the year, but RISE Academy has an open door policy and parents are encouraged to visit the school whenever necessary.
6. **RISE Academy** will provide each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading by: Parents receive a copy of their child's

standardized assessment scores after fall and spring testing results are available. Parents also receive information about their child's BAT scores at parent conferences.

7. **RISE Academy** will take the following actions to provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002) by: All of RISE Academy's teachers are currently "highly qualified". If that were not the case, parents would receive written notification of this circumstance via a letter informing them.
8. **RISE Academy** will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics:
 - 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:

This will be accomplished by an Open House (Curriculum is discussed for each grade level and grade level expectations are given; State Standards are discussed as they pertain to each grade level), FCAT workshop, Family Curriculum Nights, and individual parent conferences. The district also offers workshops pertaining to getting involved in your child's school and how to work with educators toward the success of your children.

9. **RISE Academy** will provide materials and training 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: offering parent workshops, providing parents with additional resources and giving them the locations of training available.
10. **RISE Academy** with the assistance of its parents, educates its teachers, pupil services personnel, principal and other staff in how to reach out to;
 - Communicate with and work with parents as equal partners
 - Value the utility of contributions of parents
 - How to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools

This will be done by:

- Keeping an open door policy for parents

- Encouraging and accepting parent ideas
- Ensuring that parents are an integral part of our committees
- Giving parents information they need to make good decisions about and for their children
- Using language that is friendly and understandable for parents
- Encouraging teachers to involve parents in their classrooms and in the education of their children

11. **RISE Academy** will, to the extent viable and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with the District Curriculum. The school will also conduct other activities, such as, holding Family Curriculum Nights, parenting workshops, referring parents to the District parent resource centers, and encouraging parents in more fully participating in the education for their children.

12. **RISE Academy** will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format:

- Alternative formats will be available upon request (to the extent it is viable and in a language parents can understand)
- Staff will access a District Translator if needed
- Staff will be available to help a parent understand information verbally when a parent has difficulty reading English

RISE Academy School of Science & Technology provides for the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist the Title I participating school in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Additional parent meetings/activities will be held at various times during the school year. Meetings/activities will be arranged at various times so that parents can attend. Different meetings/activities will be of a different nature so that all parents can be encouraged to participate. Some may be more formal and informative. Some may be informal meetings between Title I teachers and parents, and some may include hands-on activities, such as looking at computer programs and tips for their child to be successful in reading. All meetings will have a translator available to assist with language barriers. Parents may be notified of meetings through (1) notices sent home by students in the appropriate language, (2) internet postings on RISE Academy School of Science & Technology Website, and (5) public postings in English and Spanish. These meetings/activities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Back-to-School Night
- Parent Conference Day
- Title I Annual Meeting

- ELL Meeting/Conferences
- Parent Workshops
- Student-Participation Programs
- Book Fairs
- Awards Day
- Field Trips

During each meeting parents are encouraged to notify the school in writing of any comments/concerns they may have that could help in the revision process for future meetings with the same content.

Parent Involvement in Planning, Review, and Improvement

Parents of Title I students were involved in the development and review of the Parent Involvement Policy/Plan by serving as members of the RISE Academy School of Science & Technology Advisory Panel. During annual meetings with parents of participating students in the Targeted Assisted School, the Parental Involvement Policy/Plan is distributed. The policy/plan is made available in English and Spanish. All parents will be given surveys at the end of the school year to give their comments on activities, materials, and training that the school should offer or improve on for the next school year. The advisory panel will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Policy/Plan in improving the academic quality of the Title I school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in authorized activities. They will also use the evaluation to design more effective strategies and revise the plan as needed to meet the needs of all students.

The Parental Involvement Policy/Plan is made available to parents in the following venues:

- Distribution to Title I participating students
- RISE Academy School of Science & Technology website

Comments on School Parent Involvement Policy

Title I parents who serve on the RISE Academy School of Science & Technology Advisory Panel serve as liaison to bring concerns and comments about the Parental Involvement Policy/Plan to the other members of the panel so that their comments are considered when revisions are made to the policy/plan. Parents are also given a survey at the end of the school year, which may remain anonymous, to give their comments or concerns on activities, materials, and training that the school should offer or improve on for the next school year. These surveys are used, along with any comments from the advisory panel, to make any needed revisions.

LEA Parental Involvement Allocation

Parental involvement is given much emphasis RISE Academy School of Science & Technology as required by the Title I law. A portion of the Title I allocation is used to implement activities for parents to be involved, including family literacy and parenting skills. Members of the RISE Academy School of Science & Technology Advisory Panel will be involved in decisions regarding how parental involvement funds will be expended.

Title I Selection Process

Title I students are selected based on the following data: FCAT, SAT10, DIBELS, and teacher recommendation. Students who score a 2 or below on the reading portion of the FCAT are automatically placed in the program. Also, students who score intensive on DIBELS are included. Due to the fact that 2nd graders do not take the FCAT, third grade students are placed based on DIBELS, STAR, and teacher opinion. All third grade students who scored intensive or strategic on the DIBELS assessment are placed in the program.

School Parent Compact

The school parent compact was developed by the RISE Academy School of Science & Technology Advisory Panel, which includes school staff and parents. The compact will link school, parents, and communities in order to meet the educational needs of the children with whom they are involved. The School Parent Compact builds on the belief that school-community links are critical to creating environments where all children can reach high standards. The school parent compact is designed to increase the sharing of responsibility between families and school for the high performance of students. All parents of Title I students will be given a copy of the compact upon entering the program. The compact will be explained to the parents, and they will be asked to sign the compact signifying their commitment to the partnership between the school and their child. This helps to ensure that their child is successful in school.

A Spanish version is available, along with an ELL translator to meet with parents and explain the compact. Each Title I teacher will be given the responsibility of explaining the compact to the student and obtaining the student's signature. The teacher will sign the compact and they will be housed in the Title I classroom for availability during the Title I meeting, parent conferences and/or student-teacher conferences. The compact is reviewed each spring by the advisory panel and updated to meet the needs of the students.