

North Main Street School

2022-2023
North Main Street
School
Parent Compact



Teresa McGaney-Guy
Principal

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North Main Street School

School's Vision

North Main Street School

SCHOOL

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission at North Main Street School is that we share a vision of personalized, self-directed learning, where leaders and learners collaborate in a safe, secure and supportive community utilizing adaptive, standards aligned resources that result in preparation for lifelong learning in a 21st century world of work.

- **Staff expectations are to reach the goal and include a variety of instructional strategies and differentiation of instruction.**
- **Students should continually be engaged in learning and respected as young learners.**
- **All staff will provide the tools for students to grow as respectful, caring citizens of our community.**
- **Teachers, administrators, parents, and the community share the responsibility for advancing this mission.**

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT INTRODUCTION & PURPOSE
ACCORDING TO THE NON-REGULATORY GUIDANCE OF THE USA
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DATED
APRIL 23, 2004

The Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), is based on four principles that provide a framework through which families, educators, and communities can work together to improve teaching and learning. These principles are accountability for results, local control and flexibility, expanded parental choice, and effective and successful programs that reflect scientifically based research. The parental involvement provisions in Title I, Part A of the ESEA reflect these principles. Specifically, these provisions stress shared accountability between schools and parents for high student achievement, including expanded public school choice and supplemental educational services for eligible children in low-performing schools, local development of parental involvement plans with sufficient flexibility to address local needs, and building parents' capacity for using effective practices to improve their own children's academic.

The new Title I, Part A is designed not only to help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers, but also to change the culture of America's schools so that success is defined in terms of student achievement and schools invest in every child.¹ As indicated by the parental involvement provisions in Title I, Part A, the involvement of parents in their children's education and schools is critical to that process. Secretary Paige put it succinctly when he stated, ***"schools can't improve without the help of parents."***²

Three decades of research provide convincing evidence that parents are an important influence in helping their children achieve high academic standards. When schools collaborate with parents to help their children learn and when parents participate in school activities and decision-making about their children's education, children achieve at higher levels. In short, when parents are involved in education, children do better in school and schools improve.³

¹ Testing for Results: Helping Families, Schools and Communities Understand and Improve Student Achievement, US Department of Education, 2002, ****Parent Involvement Title I, Part A, Non-Regulatory Guidance, April 23, 2004, Page 1-2

Rod Paige, USA TODAY, April 8, 2002, Page A-13

³ Lewis, Anne C.; Henderson, Anne T., Urgent Message: Families Crucial to School Reform, 1998 ****Parent Involvement Title I, Part A, Non-Regulatory Guidance, April 23, 2004, Page 1-2

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This guidance is divided into five major sections. The first deals with general issues related to parental involvement, the second addresses the parental involvement responsibilities of State educational agencies (SEAs), the third describes responsibilities of local educational agencies (LEAs), the fourth describes the responsibilities of schools, and the fifth describes the responsibilities of LEAs and schools to build parents' capacity for becoming involved in improving their child's academic achievement. Included in the appendices are relevant definitions (Appendix A), key Title I, Part A parental notice requirements (Appendix B), a list of research-based resources for improving teaching and learning (Appendix C), a sample template that might be used for the development of a district-wide parental involvement policy (Appendix D), and a sample template for a school-parent compact (Appendix E).

PURPOSE

The purpose of this guidance is to assist SEAs, LEAs, and schools in administering the parental involvement provisions of Title I, Part A of the ESEA. This guidance is not intended to be all-inclusive; rather, it answers questions about and clarifies aspects of the law that have been brought to the attention of the U.S. Department of Education (ED). This guidance may be supplemented in the future as other issues arise. The questions are primarily based on issues raised by State and local school officials and staff, education leaders, technical assistance providers, parents, parent advocacy organizations, parental involvement coordinators/school staff, and others who are actively engaged in working with parents to improve student achievement and learning.

North Main Street School Purpose

North Main Street School is a school like no other. It's warm and family friendly atmosphere is what sets it apart. The staff is ready to assist in all aspects of the student's educational experience as they continue to grow into productive young men and young women in our society. We provide services for Pre-K through 5th grade. Students are taught a curriculum that is aligned with the Core Curriculum Content standards for New Jersey. The student enrollment is approximately 350 students with the primary languages of English and Spanish. We have numerous clubs which focus on various aspects of life that will help our students explore and learn about the world around them such as Yearbook club, Band, Sports, Students Counsel, Drama. and STEM (which focuses on the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math.) In addition, we currently are working with the NJEA Priority Schools Initiative that focuses on reading and writing. Through this we have implemented guided reading in all our classrooms, and as part of the initiative, we encourage parents to read with their children for fifteen to twenty minutes per night. Lastly, throughout the school year, we have numerous assemblies and competitions that focus on academic achievement and several subjects from the Core Curriculum.

Here at North Main Street School, we are like a family. Our main focus is to come together as parents, students, and staff and to work TOGETHER as one unit, a family unit. Our teaching staff, support staff, and administrator are dedicated to helping our children be as successful as they can be. Nothing is unreachable; the sky's the limit for our parents and students at North Main. Workshops will be presented to keep parents informed of the curriculum and other areas that impact the education of our children throughout the school year. We also have a food pantry called Cougar Cupboard that provides and services not only our parents at North Main but our entire community.

DEFINITIONS

PARENT

The term “parent” includes a legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare). [Section 9101(31), ESEA.]

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The term “parental involvement” means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- 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; and
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA. [Section 9101(32), ESEA.]

PARENT COMPACT

That compact is part of the school’s written parental involvement policy developed by the school and parents under section 1118(b) of the ESEA. The compact must outline how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State’s high standards.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The North Main St. School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children) agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

This school-parent compact is in effect during 2022/ 2023.

REQUIRED SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT PROVISIONS

Title I, Part A provides for substantive parental involvement at every program level, such as in the development and implementation of the State and local plan and in carrying out the LEA and school improvement provisions. Section 1118 contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for SEAs, LEAs, and schools related to involving parents in their children's education. This section identifies critical points in the process of improving teaching and learning where parents and the community can intervene and assist in school improvement. Although section 1118 is extensive in scope and has many requirements for LEAs and schools, the intent is not to be burdensome. These provisions reflect good practice in engaging families in helping to educate their children because students do better when parents are actively involved in the education process, both at home and at school.

School Responsibilities

The North Main Street School will:

- 1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:**

By providing a high-quality educational environment that develops academically and socially successful students who are prepared to achieve excellence as they continue their education.

North Main Street School

- 2. Hold parent-teacher conferences (at least annually in elementary schools) during which this compact will discuss individual child's achievements. Specifically, those conferences will be held:**

- 3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress.** Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:

The Interim reports for students will be provided to parents four times during the school year. These reports will provide parents with their children's academic progress for every marking period. During the course of the school year, teachers and parents have the freedom and flexibility to meet to discuss students' academic performance.

- 4. Provide parents with reasonable access to staff.** Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:

The Title I office and the Family Involvement Representative are the links to parents at the North Main St. School. They are the tools that provide reasonable access to staff and administrators. Other means of communication, such as emails, Class Dojo, Robo Calls, and students' agendas or journals, are also utilized as a form of communication tool. The Parent Visitation Policy is provided in the school handbook.

See Appendix A

- 5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities,** as follows:

North Main St. School practices an "Open Door Policy;" therefore, parents' participation is one that is constant and very casual. Parents can volunteer, participate in school events, and observe classroom activities by contacting the school's Family Involvement Representative and/or the school's PTO/PTA.

See Appendix B

North Main Street School

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- *We will monitor attendance and support school attendance policies.*
- *We will make sure that homework is completed.*
- *We will monitor the amount of television our children watch.*
- *We will volunteer in our children's classroom.*
- *We will participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to our children's education.*
- *We will promote positive use of our children's extracurricular time.*
- *We will stay informed about our children's education and communicate with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district either received by our children or by mail and will respond as appropriate.*
- *Serving, to the extent possible, on policy advisory groups, such as being the Title I, Part A parent representative on the school's School Improvement Team, the Title I Policy Advisory Committee, the District-wide Policy Advisory Council, the State's Committee of Practitioners, the School Support Team, School Leadership Committee, or other school advisory or policy groups.*



ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS

Student Responsibilities (Grade Level)

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the State's high standards. Specifically, we will:

- *Do our homework daily and ask for help when needed.*
- *Read at least 30 minutes every day outside of school time.*
- *Give to my parents or the adult who is responsible for my welfare all notices and information received by me from my school every day.*

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North Main St. School Responsibilities

The **North Main St. School** will:

1. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parental involvement policy in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
2. Involve parents in the joint development of any school-wide program plan in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.
3. 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 convenient time for parents and offer a flexible number of additional parental involvement meetings in the morning or evening so that as many parents as possible can attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students) to this meeting and encourage them to attend.
4. Hold additional parental involvement meetings in the morning or evening so that as many parents as possible can attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs (participating students) to this meeting and encourage them to attend.
5. Provide information to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon the request of parents with disabilities, and, to the extent practical, in a language that parents can understand.
6. Provide parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, and Part A programs that include a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure the children's progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
7. On 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 possible.

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8. Provide to each parent an individual student report about their child's performance on the State assessment in at least math, language arts, and reading.
9. 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).

North Main St. School Responsibilities

To help build and develop a partnership with parents to help their children achieve the State's high academic standards, the North Main St. School will:

1. Recommend to the local educational agency (LEA), the names of parents of participating children of Title I, Part A programs who are interested in serving on the State's Committee of Practitioners and School Support Teams.
2. Notify parents of the school's participation in Early Reading First, Reading First, and Even Start Family Literacy Programs operating within the school and the district and provide the contact information.
3. Work with the LEA in addressing problems, if any, in implementing parental involvement activities in section 1118 of Title I, Part A.
4. Work with the LEA to ensure that a copy of the SEA's written complaint procedures for resolving any issue of violation(s) of a Federal statute or regulation of Title I, Part A program is provided to parents of students and to appropriate private school officials or representatives.

GLOSSARY

1. **LEA**- Local Educational Agency (School District)
SEA-State Educational Agency (New Jersey Department of Education)
2. **ESEA**- Elementary & Secondary Educational Act of 1965: is based on four principles that provide a framework through which families, educators, and communities can work together to improve teaching and learning. These principles are accountability for results, local control, and flexibility, expanded parental choice, and effective and

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successful programs that reflect scientifically based research.

3. **AYP- Adequate Yearly Progress**

“Adequate yearly progress” (AYP) is defined by the State in a manner that—

- a) Applies the same high standards of academic achievement to all public school students in the State;
- b) Is statistically valid and reliable;
- c) Results in continuous and substantial academic improvement for all students;
- d) Measures the progress of all public schools, LEAs, and the State based primarily on the State’s academic assessment system under section 200.2;
- e) Measures progress separately for reading/ language arts and mathematics;
- f) Is the same for all public schools and LEAs in the State; and
- g) Consistent with section 200.7, applies the same annual measurable objectives under section 200.18 separately to each of the following:
 - i. All public school students.
 - ii. Students in each of the following subgroups:
 - (A) Economically disadvantaged students;
 - (B) Students from major racial and ethnic groups;
 - (C) Students with disabilities; and
 - (D) Students with limited English proficiency, as defined in section 9101(25) of the ESEA. *[Section 200.13(b) of the Title I Regulations.]*

School

Date

Parent

Date

Parent

Date

Student

(PLEASE NOTE THAT SIGNATURES ARE NOT REQUIRED)

APPENDIX A: PARENT VISITATION POLICY

Parents may visit our classrooms. We respect the right to ask them to make appointments so that there is the least disruption to the instructional process. This appointment will ensure that the class is in the classroom at the requested time and that both parties, teacher and parent, know the type of activity that is taking place in the classroom. We aim to accommodate parents within the following guidelines that help us run an orderly and secure school environment.

If the visitor is not a parent, then parental permission must be secured in writing before visitation. This has been requested of grandparents who do not get to see their grandchildren due to separation or relocation to a different town or step-parents who are raising children that are not in their custody.

If one parent requests that another parent not see or pick up a child, they must put it in writing **and give the office supporting documents** such as a restraining order or court order. Staff cannot be put in the position to make decisions for or against feuding parents.

If the reason is to drop something off, the parent can leave the item(s) at the security desk, and staff will make sure it is given to the student.

Only in extremely rare cases should the parent be allowed to go to the classroom during instructional time or to the cafeteria. Only the Principal will make the decision to allow a parent to go to the classroom. The parent is to be escorted to the classroom by the security staff or Principal.

APPENDIX B: PARENT VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Volunteer Program 2022/2023

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you know, Teamwork between home and school can only help make children's education more successful and rewarding for all. One way you can help is by volunteering in the schools. The purpose of the School Volunteer program is to provide assistance for teachers and staff and to enrich the educational experience of the children. Any adult family member or caregiver (parents, grandparents, aunt, uncles, etc.) may participate.

You may help in the following areas:

1. Classroom helper: Volunteers work under the direction of the teacher, helping with such things as tutoring, seat work, computers, reading stories, etc. Some teachers permit parents of their own children to work in their rooms, while others prefer not.
2. Lunchroom helper: Volunteers help students find seats, open milk, and other food items, and prepare students for dismissal.
3. Playground: Assists students while playing on the grounds and equipment.
4. Resource volunteer: to provide enrichment through sharing of talents and special interests, hobbies, and careers.

Other information about the program

The anticipated starting date for the program will be in November.

An orientation will be announced once volunteers are Board approved.

If you would like to participate, complete the registration form on the back and return it to your child's teacher.

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Once you are registered, more information will be sent home via your child.

Please feel free to call if you have any questions. (609) 383-6887 ext. 2028

APPENDIX B: PARENT VOLUNTEER APPLICATION

Parent involvement Form
2022-2023

Parents + School = Success

Please complete this form and return it to your child's teacher.

Last Name _____ First Name _____
Address _____ E-mail _____
Phone # _____

Children attending (School Name) _____

Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Name _____ Teacher _____ Grade _____

Please check off areas in which you would like to offer assistance.

Classroom helper _____ Lunchroom helper _____ PTO programs _____

Resource Volunteer _____ Playground helper _____

Please indicate the days and times you would be available.

North Main Street School

Mon. _____ to _____ Thur. _____ to _____

Tues. _____ to _____ Fri. _____ to _____

Wed. _____ to _____

Thank you!

APPENDIX C: PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN

Parent Involvement Plan

Goal: Build a strong bond with parents/guardians by engaging parents, students, and staff members with family-centered activities/events that work hand in hand with the curriculum. Encourage and provide support to parents, students, and staff as needed. Collaborate together to improve the existing Parent Compact.

Activities: Parent Paint Night, Family Game Night, Cougar Carnival, Cougar Coffee, Parenting Workshops, Family Reading Night, PTO Activities, PTO Expo (networking with parents statewide), Community Involvement (Food Bank), Educational Workshops for parents, and PARC workshops which inform parents of test requirements.

Task/Action Steps “What Will Be Done”	Responsibilities “Who Will Do It”	Resources Funding, Time, People, Materials	Timeline By When-Day/Month
Frequent formal and informal PTO meetings that target concerns and more involvement. Equip parents to become more involved with their children throughout their academic years.	Parental Involvement Representatives will collaborate with the school and building administrators.	Funding- PTO Acct, Title 1 funding as needed. Time- Daily, weekly, monthly, as needed. People- Parental Reps, PTO, staff members Materials- Cart, coffee pot, PTO Rep, Educational Literature as	Time will vary by month based on events/activities.

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		needed.	
<p>Evaluation Process (How will we determine that our goal has been reached? What are our measures?) As we meet with the PTO, we will develop an open line of communication that will allow our parents, students, and staff to work together to educate and inform parents of their child's educational growth and work together to solve issues that may arise through surveys, PTO meetings and a suggestion box in the front lobby.</p>			

Gretchen Jones, Parental Involvement Representative NMSS 2022-2023