

Watershed High School 2011-2012 Title I Parental Involvement Policy Procedures

I. Statement of Purpose

Watershed High School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every student served. To this end, we seek to establish partnerships with parents, families, and the community. Everyone gains if the school, parents, and community work together to promote high student achievement. Families' support for their children and for the school is critical to student success at every step of the way.

Parents are consulted regarding Watershed's Title I program including how students qualify for Title I services, parent involvement practices and ILP's, Individual Learning Plans, (Parent Compact) at least three times annually. As a Title I program, we support all parents and guardians being informed and able to participate in what is happening at Watershed.

Watershed seeks to involve students' family members as volunteer tutors, mentors, and as community liaisons. Parents are invited to family potlucks, student presentation evenings, and extended conferences a minimum. Also there are several other family events to which all students and their families are invited. Parents are encouraged to contact the school to ask about opportunities to be involved in support of the learning program at Watershed.

II. The remainder of this document details various aspects of Watershed's parent involvement procedures/involvement of parents in the joint development of district wide family involvement.

A. Watershed holds at least 3 family events during the year. These events typically include presentation of student work, information provided about the program by program staff, opportunities for parents to communicate with school staff, and opportunities for parents to meet socially and network among themselves. Family involvement practices are summarized and this plan shared with parents, along with the student handbook, at a family conference during the fall.

B. Parents are invited to several events at the school during the year, and are able to provide input on family involvement and other elements of school operation at any time. Parent input is sought more formally during two parent Title I meetings, one in the fall and one in the spring. All parents of participating students are invited and encouraged to attend these meetings. At both Title I meetings, Watershed staff inform parents of their school's participation in the Title I program and explain the requirements of Title I, including the right of the parents to be involved.

C. Watershed involves parents in the process of school planning, review and improvement activities:

- Parents are notified of the school report card through the school's Annual Report, completed each school year by early fall.
- Parents' are notified of options available for supplemental education services, if applicable

D. Watershed involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in improvement of programs, including planning review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy: this will take place through parent Title I Meetings held two times per year.

E. Watershed seeks to build its own, and parents', 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. Parent contacts are tracked via conference forms, and administration holds advisors accountable for doing so. Also, parents are asked to attend conferences with their students and are invited to two Title I Meetings each year. The school seeks to build parents' capacity for involvement by making the school a welcoming environment, and by encouraging parent input.

III. Coordination and integration of parental involvement strategies in Title I.

- A. As a Title I program, Watershed will employ Title I resources to support academic instruction for students who are behind in math. Coordination of program resources overall is overseen by the Administrative Director with oversight from the Board; coordination of both educational programs and family involvement efforts at the school site is overseen by the Administrative Director and Classroom Teachers.

IV. Annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of Watershed High School support programs.

- A. Parents are consulted regarding Watershed's Title I program, family involvement practices and Individualized Learning Plan (Parent Compact) at least twice annually. This document, the Parent Compact, and the family involvement practices of Watershed are reviewed with parents at a fall meeting. Watershed leadership takes parent input into account in considering revisions to family involvement practices and this set of procedures.

B. There is a spring meeting at which parents are again asked for their input on family involvement practices of the school, and at which they are specifically asked for input on Title I programs as part of planning for the coming year's consolidated application.

V. Strategies for building schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.

A. Watershed seeks to involve families through regular school events that inform them about school resources and encourage them to support their children's education. Beginning with initial conferences and through regular communication with school staff, parents are informed about state academic standards and about academic assessments required by the state and by the school. Parents are encouraged to contact their student's Advisor or other school staff with any questions they have about state requirements, Watershed's requirements and policies, or their student's progress in the program. These are also included in the student handbook.

B. To ensure that information related to the school and family programs, meetings, and other activities, is made available, watershed uses multiple methods, including sharing the school calendar with students and families at the beginning of the year, mailings, and phone calls. With a high-mobility population, updating student and parent contact information is an ongoing challenge which is met by support staff who regularly update contact information in the school's database, based on information from teachers or others.

C. Watershed provides staff training prior to the start of the new school year for all instructional staff. This training includes presentations to staff by the Administrative Director, Program Director, and Student Services Coordinator regarding strategies to more effectively involve students' families in supporting the learning program. Staff are asked to support family involvement efforts and asked for their input regarding how family involvement practices can be improved.

VI. Accessibility

A. In carrying out the parental involvement requirements of these procedures, Watershed will, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in language parents understand.