



DETROIT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN /2013-2014

Purpose

The mission of Detroit Community Schools is to awaken our student's aspirations and then develop their capacities needed to support purposeful and productive lives. We believe that all students should be prepared to engage post-secondary academic opportunities that may include college or vocational careers that lead to meaningful community contributions critical to the growth of our society. We therefore offer a rigorous academic program that integrates formal education, artistic and practical learning within a supportive environment that is highlighted by encouragement, collaboration and mutual respect.

Why is Parental Involvement Critical?

Studies have demonstrated that schools that support and encourage active parental participation produce greater successes relative to meeting the academic goals sought. Parents bring a sense of discipline and a tie-in to community as co-sponsors and stakeholders in all phases of academic life especially when their active participation is encouraged and valued.

Parent Involvement in Developing Policy

The 2013-14 Parent Involvement Plan is tied to components of a School-Wide Improvement Team with specific tasks identified to address. This Team is comprised of parents, school personnel, students, and area stakeholders who will discuss and then recommend policies as they relate to the education of their children. The Parent Involvement Plan is designed to highlight specific parts of the Team's recommended policies that can best be managed by that subset.

Annual Title I Meeting

DCS will hold an annual Title I Parent mtg just prior to the 2013-14 Fall semester where general information about the Title I Program and the Parent Involvement Policy will be shared and explained. It will be a meeting for all parents who will enroll students at this site as a part of the enrollment profile. Appropriate documents will be provided to all parent/guardian attendees that outline student and adult expectations. These documents will be presented in binder form, passed out at the mandatory meeting. All stakeholders will be invited to attend, including instructional staff, non-instructional staff, and area stakeholders. (This meeting was held, Aug. 20th, 2013)

Building Capacity for Parent Populations

Capacity building is often a challenge for urban, low-income households. At the annual Title I Parent meeting, discussions were planned that focus on the 2013-2014 standardized testing data, the use of the Scantron model that assesses student grasp of foundational, educational materials, and a review of the actual and anticipated graduation rates. The DCS task is to arrange an array of supports designed to help prepare parents for the academic needs required in today's global learning environment. The modern-day parent must be skilled or at least know how to become skilled in the tools of education needed for today's success. Relationships will be strengthened with entities such as the:

- * **Michigan Dept. of Education**
- * **Michigan Dept. of Education Academic Assessments (MEAP and MME) testing tools**
- * **Wayne County Community College (Dual Enrollment)**
- * **Detroit Public Library**
- * **Saginaw Valley State University**

Additionally, relationships with area stakeholders that are deemed to be beneficial to the growth of the student's intellectual capacity will be identified. Further examples of parental supports are the classes offered after school that highlight academics, family nights of fun, meals together as therapy, new math training, cultural sensitivity training, etc. Every effort will be made to advertise all events including robo-calls, hard-copy mailings, local media advertising, announcements on the DCS website and student-carried messages. Efforts will also be made to guarantee that the language used in all trainings is parent-friendly.

DCS Parent Outreach Events

Given the economic profile of the students that are enrolled at DCS, activities that intervene in household/family challenges will be organized that include:

- * **utility shut-off protection seminars**
- * **health fair/nutrition demonstration night**
- * **holiday food drives**
- * **gardens**
- * **career day**
- * **college tours**
- * **winter clothing for students**
- * **pre-college applications**
- * **pre-college financial aid processing**

The school will distribute the draft of the Parent Involvement Plan to all parents with students enrolled at DCS at the Title I meeting held in the Fall, pre-2013-2014 school year.

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