

DETROIT COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

*"Where excellence is the
only option"*



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PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN (2015-16)

Purpose

The mission of Detroit Community Schools is to awaken our student's aspirations and develop their capacities 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 the life of the community as co-sponsors and stakeholders in all phases of academic life especially when their active participation is encouraged and valued. Success comes when a 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.

DCS will implement the following strategies relative to parent involvement:

- Hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the district parent involvement plan. A positive invitation in language understandable to the parents will be given to explain the school's commitment and the parent's right to be involved in the educational process of their student.
- Provide student's assessment results and develop Individualized Student Learning Plans (ISLP), progress reports, report cards, and parent conferences.
- Provide a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the form of assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The school will also provide the Student Code of Conduct.
- Arrange flexible scheduled parent/teacher conferences and parent requested conferences.

- Publish school newsletter informing parents about the parent involvement plan and other events at the school. This newsletter will also send a positive invitation to parents to participate in various activities while providing parents information at a glance about scheduled school meetings and activities.
- Provide brainstorming sessions at least once monthly to provide parents the opportunity to share concerns and desires, to better improve the school environment and student achievement.
- Send home a parent-student-teacher compact that outlines how parents and school staff will share the responsibility for improved student achievement of their student. This compact shall be discussed and revised as necessary at least annually at school meetings.
- Maintain a consistent, district wide effort to communicate regularly with parents.
- Encourage continued positive partnerships involvement throughout the community by staff and administrators.
- Establish after school academic clubs and sports to provide students additional opportunities to develop skills.
- Have school administration and staff provide test data and interpretation meetings to allow parents to ask questions.
- Provide opportunities for discussions between parents, administrators and staff to address problems and find solutions for students having difficulties, either academically or socially.

Annual Title I Meeting

DCS conducts several grade-based Title I orientations over the summer, in addition to the annual Title I meeting. Because of the importance of the general information about the Title I Program and the Parent Involvement Plan, it was also decided to share this information at subsequent parent meetings. As part of the student enrollment profile, grade-related 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.

Building Capacity for Parent Populations

Capacity building is often a challenge for urban, low-income households. At the annual Title I Parent meeting, discussions are focused on standardized testing (district and state level) and how to interpret the data, educational materials, and project based learning

opportunities. The task of DCS 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 Department of Education - Academic Assessments (M-Step)
- Wayne County Community College (Dual Enrollment)
- Detroit Public Library
- Bay Mills State Community College
- Local area stakeholders

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, and the development of a "parent university." 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 enrolled at DCS, activities that intervene in household/family challenges will be organized that include:

- enrollment in local utility protection programs
- holiday food drives
- gardening (parent and student recruitment)
- career day
- college tours
- pre-college applications

The school will distribute the Parent Involvement Plan to all parents/guardians at the annual Title I meeting.