

# **Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School**

## **Parental Involvement Policy**

**2011 – 2012**

### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

**Oliver Wendell Holmes Middle School** 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. **(See Enclosure)**
- 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 for 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 local educational agency (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—*

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) 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;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

## **PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS WILL BE IMPLEMENTED**

1. Holmes Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school parental involvement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:
  - Introduce general policy expectations at Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), Parent Advisory Council (PAC), and Title I Parental Involvement Policy (PIP) meetings
  - Solicit ideas from the Title I Parental Involvement Committee and Parent Advisory Council
  - Review ideas at general PTO/PAC/PIP meetings
  - Publish final policy – separate take-home and website
2. Holmes Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - Introduce school improvement plan at Open House and let parents know there will be further discussion at various PTO/PAC/PIP meetings
  - Provide additional information at PTO/PAC/PIP meetings throughout the school year, seeking input from parents regarding all aspects of the plan
  - Provide information and details in the school newsletter, with information on how to provide parent input through phone calls, meetings, email and any other venue parents wish to use
3. Holmes Middle School 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:
  - Notify parents at PTO/PAC/PIP meetings and through the school newsletter that their input is valued, and can be provided through the public meetings, through small group or individual meetings with the principal, as well as phone calls and emails to the principal
  - Offer childcare services for PAC/PIP meetings
  - Offer flexible times for selected PAC/PIP meetings

4. Holmes Middle School 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:
  - The School Improvement Plan and the Title I Schoolwide Plan are available to parents on the Holmes website, and in paper format if requested
  - Copies of the goals and action steps are made available at PTO/PAC/PIP meetings when they are discussed
  - The explanation of school curriculum is provided to parents at Open House and school newsletters
  - Proficiency levels are shared with parents at parent conferences and in report cards/mid-trimester reports, when parents are provided with benchmark assessment results
  
5. Holmes Middle School 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:
  - Regular meetings include: parent-teacher conferences, problem solving parent/team meetings, and PTO/PAC/PIP meetings
  - Suggestions will be discussed at staff meetings, Building Council meetings and School Improvement Plan meetings, as well as Administrative Title I meetings
  
6. Holmes Middle School 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:
  - ISAT results are provided and discussed at Fall Parent Teacher conferences
  - ACCESS results are provided and discussed at Fall Parent Teacher conferences
  
7. Holmes Middle School will take the following actions to provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for two (2) 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:
  - If applicable, the district will notify parents via US mail regarding the highly qualified status of a teacher
  
8. Holmes Middle School will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics by undertaking the actions described below:
  - 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 a child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators.

- District 21 Title I schools will work together to offer workshops designed to provide assistance to parents on selected educational topics
  - For the above, parent volunteers will make phone calls inviting parents to assist the school with the notification of upcoming meetings
  - In the school newsletter, parents will be informed of conferences and workshops designed for parents that are being held in the community and the state
  - Goals, power standards, achievement standards will be discussed at selected PTO and PAC meetings, and in the school newsletter, with an open invitation for parents to request additional information/ understanding through small group meetings, emails, and phone calls
9. Holmes Middle School 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:
- Parents will be encouraged to participate in Plazas Comunitarias and the District 21 Family Learning program, where technology use and literacy training are addressed
  - In the educational workshops (#8 above), improving academic achievement will be addressed with activities & materials that parent can use at home
10. Holmes Middle School will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- Organizing a committee to enhance leadership capacity of parents and explore opportunities for the improvement of parent involvement
  - Encouraging Holmes parents to participate in the Title I program *Aprendamos el sistema educativo para alcanzar el éxito de mi hijo*
11. Holmes Middle School 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, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- District 21 offers a state/federally funded early childhood program. The program includes parent workshops, resources and opportunities for parents to begin involvement in their child's education
  - District 21 offers adult education classes and programs to connect parents to schools and the American education system
  - District 21 offers kindergarten outreach classes to preschool families

12. Holmes Middle School 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, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- Holmes Middle School will provide translated copies of all school flyers that go home
- Holmes newsletter will be in both English and Spanish, to ensure that all parents have access to school information

**PART III. DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

- Organize a committee to enhance the leadership capabilities of the Hispanic parents and explore spaces for the improvement of parent involvement
- Organize family field trips to support selected curricular units
- Organize family field trips designed to acclimate students and families to post-secondary opportunities and provide information on resources available to support students' access to a post-secondary education

**PART IV. ADOPTION**

This School Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agendas and minutes of PTO/PAC meetings, and notices of invitation to participate in Holmes newsletter.

This policy was adopted by Holmes Middle School on November 30, 2011 and will be in effect for the period of two years. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before December 9, 2011.

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*(Signature of Authorized Official)*

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*(Date)*