

Washington Township Public Schools

Orchard Valley Middle School Parental Involvement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Orchard Valley 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.
- 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.
- The school will build its own and the 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.
- 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 that 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 learning;

(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 SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School Parental Involvement Policy must include a description of how the district will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [Section 1118, ESEA.] There is no required format for these descriptions. However, regardless of the format the district chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included in order to satisfy statutory requirements.

1. Orchard Valley 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:

- a) present and discuss the School Parental Involvement Policy to parents during a meeting to be held at the beginning of each school year
- b) involve parents in creating a list of activities that the school will conduct to involve parents in school programs and activities

2. Orchard Valley Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- a) Conduct bi-monthly Home and School Council meetings where a review of school programs and school improvement will be discussed.

3. Orchard Valley Middle School will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's Participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain to 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:

- a) Sending home a letter notifying them of the meeting
- b) Scheduling meetings at a time that is convenient for parents

4. Orchard Valley 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:

- a) A parent letter with Title I program information will be sent home at the beginning of each school year
- b) Title I information will be made available at Back to School Nights for parents at the beginning of the school year

5. Orchard Valley 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 by:

Presenting said suggestions to administration and staff, when appropriate, and implementing changes as needed.

6. Orchard Valley 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 by:

Individual student test reports will be sent to parents upon receipt from the state.

7. Orchard Valley Middle School will take the following actions to 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 on section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002) by:

If this becomes necessary, parents would be notified by letter prior to the end of the fourth consecutive week.

8. Orchard Valley Middle School will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:
- 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 their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators:

Parents would receive information and explanations of these topics at Home and School Council meetings and evening presentations that would focus upon these specific topics.

9. Orchard Valley 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:

- a) Inviting parents to observe classrooms during American Education Week
- b) Holding annual Back to School Nights at the beginning of the school year to inform parents of their child's educational program at each grade level.

10. Orchard Valley 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 school, by:

Providing opportunities for professional development in building community partnerships and parent involvement.

11. Orchard Valley Middle School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with various programs. The school will also conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- a) Providing a parent resource library which is housed in the Orchard Valley Middle School media center
- b) Presenting relevant programs at the bi-monthly Home and School Council meetings

12. Orchard Valley 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:

Newsletters and parent letters would include information about parent meetings and programs. These would also be listed on the school website.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The School Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents; capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- Arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, arrange meetings with parents who are unable to attend conferences at school in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Establishing a school parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

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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 input gathered at meetings with the Home and School Council.

This policy was adopted by Orchard Valley Middle School and revised and approved in September, 2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020 -2021 school year. The policy is on the school website for review.



(Signature of Authorized Official)

September 12, 2020

(Date)