

**ACADEMY OF TUCSON SCHOOLS
TITLE I PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

Explanation of Federal Program

The Title I Program is a 100% federally funded supplemental education program that provides financial assistance to local educational agencies to improve educational opportunities for the children who need additional assistance to increase their academic skills. At Academy of Tucson Schools, the Title I Program is designed to help children meet the state content and performance standards depending on each child's individual needs.

To receive funds, each state must submit an Integrated Action Plan (IAP) describing the high-quality standards that all children are expected to meet and ways to measure progress. In Arizona, this means that the Arizona Department of Education has developed specific academic standards that students are expected to meet. These standards are measured annually by the current State Assessment (AzMerit). The Arizona Department of Education provides money to schools that it received from the federal government as set forth by Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Each school eligible for a Title I Program develops learning opportunities that add to regular classroom instruction and involves parents in all aspects of the program. A process is determined to identify students most in need of educational help and progress is measured by the school defined assessment as well as state assessment. Each year the success of the program is reviewed and adjustments made, if needed, to improve the service to our students.

General Expectations

Academy of Tucson Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Academy of Tucson Schools will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, Academy of Tucson Schools will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- Academy of Tucson Schools will incorporate this parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent possible, Academy of Tucson Schools and its schools 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, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Academy of Tucson Schools will submit any parent comments with the plan when submitting the plan to the State Department of Education.

- Academy of Tucson Schools 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 (if applicable) is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- Academy of Tucson Schools will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools 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.*

Implementation of Parental Involvement Policy

1. Academy of Tucson Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - School performance profiles and their child's individual assessment results along with an explanation of those results.
 - Provide a description of The Academy's curriculum, the forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency level students are expected to meet.
 - Provide regular parent meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, etc.
 - Provide regular progress reports in a format that is understandable, and to the extent practical, in a language parents understand.
 - Provide assistance to parents in such areas as understanding the Arizona Department of Education Standards.

To the fullest extent possible, information will be sent home in the language used in the home. In carrying out the parent involvement requirements, The Academy will, to the extent practical, provide full participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with disabilities.

2. Academy of Tucson Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Provide and analyze Parent, Principal and Teacher Surveys to assist in future planning and improvement. The Directors, Principals and Executive Team meet regularly to evaluate and identify potential areas of concern and formulate improvement plans.
3. Academy of Tucson Schools will involve parents in implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Parent Advisory Committees (PACs) will work with the schools on a regular basis. Regular parent meetings will be communicated via school bulletin board postings, weekly online communications, classroom announcements, newsletters and flyers.
4. Academy of Tucson Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:
 - Providing assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics:
 - School performance profiles and their child's individual assessment results, along with an explanation of those results.
 - Provide a description of The Academy's curriculum, the forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency level students are expected to meet.
 - Hold regular parent meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, etc.
 - Provide regular progress reports in a format that is understandable, and to the extent practical, in a language parents understand.
 - Provide assistance to parents in such areas as understanding the Arizona Department of Education Standards.
 5. Academy of Tucson Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). Academy of Tucson Schools will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
 - Provide materials to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement.
 - Hold parent/teacher conferences every semester, more frequently if requested by either parents or teachers.
 - Provide training and materials to parents to help them provide an atmosphere that is conducive to learning at home.
 - Hold an annual Curriculum Night/Back to School presentation at which time parents are informed of the Title I program, the curriculum, how student progress is measured, and expectations of both students and parents.
 - Parents are welcome to visit the campus at any time and are required to sign in at the office.
 - Academy of Tucson school staff attends professional development sessions, weekly meetings and relevant conferences.
 6. Academy of Tucson Schools will conduct an annual review of the Parental Involvement Policy. All stakeholders will be able to participate in the review, with particular attention to parents who are disabled, limited English and economically disadvantaged.

Key Components and Aspects of the Program

Academy of Tucson Schools' Title I Program provides the following:

- Academic support in reading and mathematics for participating students
- Staff development opportunities for teachers in areas of best practice in education
- After-school tutoring and extended time activities to assist students in focused intervention*
- Parenting programs/materials to assist parents with information on ways to help children succeed in school*
- An annual meeting held for parents and participating students at the beginning of the school year
- Parent involvement is integral to the education of a child. As a result, parents of Title I Program students will be involved in the review and improvement of this policy.
- To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school and parents to improve student achievement, The Academy will provide the parents of students participating in the Title I
- Program with the following information:
 1. School performance profiles and their child's individual assessment results along with an explanation of those results
 2. A description of The Academy's curriculum, the forms of assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency level students are expected to meet. Regular parent meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, etc. Regular progress reports
 3. Assistance to parents in such areas as understanding the Arizona Department of Education Standards
 4. To the fullest extent possible, information will be sent home in the language used in the home
 5. In carrying out the parent involvement requirements, The Academy will, to the extent practical, provide full participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with disabilities.

(* Note: Some Program offerings may only become available as funding and need allow)

Shared Responsibilities

Our school believes that families and school staff should work in partnership to help each student reach his/her highest potential. A school/parent compact has been developed to outline how parents, teachers, students, and administrators will share responsibility for improved student achievement and the means as to how this will be accomplished. This compact will contain the following:

1. The school's responsibility for the provision of a high quality curriculum and supportive learning environment that will enable students to achieve and meet the state's performance standards.
2. The ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning. The students, teachers, administrator, and parents will sign a "contract" indicating their agreement to participate.
3. The responsibilities that the students have to promote their own learning.