

Parental Involvement

Bedford County Title I Department

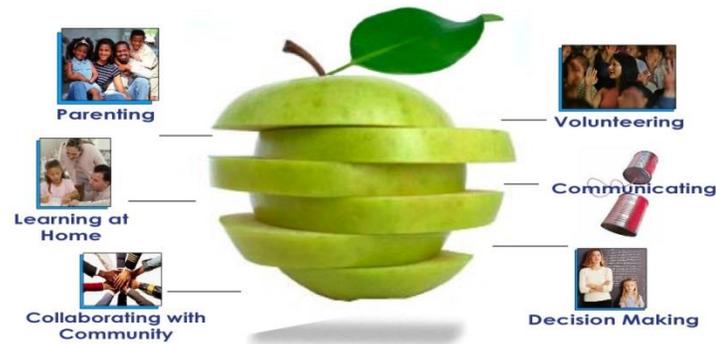
What IS Parental Involvement?

As defined by [federal legislation](#) under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act:

Parental involvement always has been a centerpiece of Title I. However, for the first time in the history of the ESEA, it has a specific statutory definition. The statute defines parental involvement as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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; and
- that other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA (Parental Involvement). [Section 9101(32), ESEA.]

The Six Slices of Parental Involvement™



Project Appleseed™

[Project Appleseed](#) classifies parental involvement into six categories that schools can target in order to increase family engagement: parenting, learning at home, collaborating with the community, volunteering, communicating, and decision making.



Where Are We Now?

An area of concern that has surfaced numerous times through the school improvement process as well as through the Title I office is the issue of parental involvement. One of the major needs identified by all groups has been the need for ideas beyond the normal PTA membership programs that exist within the schools. Many teachers, reading specialists, and principals have shared concerns about the level of family engagement in the academic process at all grade levels. While this area will continue to be an area of focus for the Title I department over the next school year, the reading specialists have begun compiling ideas that seem to work at various schools within the division. The reading specialists also spent time at their last meeting brainstorming ideas to engage students and families throughout the summer. Their work has been organized below for school/principal consideration as leadership teams confront the ever-present desire to increase the amount of family participation and involvement. This document is the first to begin addressing some of the concerns raised by each stakeholder, and will serve as a springboard for future work in the area of school, family, and community partnerships.

<p style="text-align: center;">Ideas During the School Year</p> 	<p style="text-align: center;">Ideas for Over the Summer</p> 
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working in conjunction/maximizing opportunities with highly attended PTA meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Musical Programs ✓ Art Shows ✓ Math Fairs ✓ Winter Carnival ✓ Technology Night • Family Reading Night • AR Night or RAZ kids w/ iPads • Homework Help/Homework Club • 4-year-old Transition to Kindergarten • Public Library Partnerships • Scholastic/Barnes & Noble Book Fairs (scheduled during conferences) • Game Night • Free Food • Give Aways/Door Prizes • Providing activities for children while parents are in other sessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send home book lists (appropriate levels) • Use Alert Now for summer reading reminders, etc. • Open up lab once/twice weekly supervised by teachers (volunteer or stipends) for iStation, Moby, IXL, AR, RAZ kids, etc. • Make connections with the Bedford Public Library Summer Reading Program • Use of literacy bags • Reading Bingo Boards • RAZ kids log-ins on magnets for home use • Summer Reading Log tied to incentive • Summer Writing Log tied to incentive • Read-a-Book --- Return-a-Book (mail) • Coordinate with School Library-Media Specialist • Coordinate w/ 21st Century Partners • Coordinate w/ Good Neighbors-volunteers

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What Do the Parents Have to Say?

Parents have also articulated their ideas regarding the improvement of family-school partnerships and have shared the following recommendations in order to increase these opportunities:

- School Facebook pages
- Parent phone tree
- Communicate to parents in a variety of ways (paper/electronic)
- Volunteer Checklist
- Provide food to get people in
- Mentoring programs/buddy system
- Use retirees
- More openness
- Increase communication to parents
- Increase opportunities to invite parents to meetings like leadership teams, etc.
- Create opportunities for student-led conferences or parent workshops (i.e. technology classes).
- Offer parent classes during sport practices
- Bring-your-family- to-school days
- Instruct and inform parents about new assessments and curriculum changes
- Regular parent communications about what is needed at the schools.



What Does the Research Have to Say?

A synthesis of over fifty research studies centered around parent and community engagement, conducted by the National Center for Family and Community Connections with Schools at the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL), concluded that “When families of all backgrounds are engaged in their children’s learning, their children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and pursue higher education. Clearly, children at risk of failure or poor performance can profit from the extra support that engaged families and communities provide” (2002, Henderson and Mapp).

See the full research synthesis here: <http://www.sedl.org/connections/resources/evidence.pdf>

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What are the Next Steps?

- Title I Reading Specialists are gathering additional parent input through the use of a Title I parent survey. This information will be compiled and used in conjunction with parental input already received at the division level. Information will be shared with schools for use during the 2015-2016 school year.
- Division-level Title I Parental Involvement funds will be utilized to create a toolbox of current parental involvement resources to be housed in each Title I school's reading resource room (or an alternate location within the school as designated by the administrator).
- Title I schools will receive an additional allocation of funds in Spring 2016 to be focused solely on parental involvement activities and resources at the school level.
- Title I division staff will provide resources to reading specialists and principals to assist in the purposeful, intentional expenditure of allocated funds to parental involvement activities and resources at the school level (see last page of this document).
- The division will convene an advisory committee comprising division staff, Title I reading specialists and family members representing each Title I school. The main function of this committee will be to revise the Title I Division Parental Involvement Plan and gather additional input and ideas for increasing family engagement which will be distributed to all schools.
- Title I division staff will create a parental involvement web page which will serve as a resource for reading specialists, principals, and families.
- Title I reading specialists will work with schools to revise their School Level Parent Involvement Plan (Fall 2015)





Resources for Title I Reading Specialists and Principals:

*Please note that this is simply a collection of potential resources and should not be considered division or federal endorsement of specific products.

Information and Resources

[Project Appleseed: Effective Parent Engagement for America's Public Schools](#)

[SEDL \(Southwest Educational Development Laboratory\) Family and Community Resources](#)

[US Department of Education Parent and Family Engagement Resources](#)

[Parent Involvement Matters.org](#)

[National Center for Family Literacy](#)

[PTO Today – Parental Involvement](#)

[PTA National Standards for Family-School Partnerships](#)

[Reading Rockets Parent Engagement](#)

[Jim Trelease Website for Parent Brochures](#)

[Reading Is Fundamental Literacy Resources](#)



Product Resources

[Parenting Corner of the Channing Bete Company](#)

[International Center for Leadership in Education-Parent Resource Packet](#)

[Scholastic Summer Reading Take-Home Book Packs](#)

[Pacific Learning Summer Reading Take-Home Packs](#)

[Resources for Educators - Newsletters](#)

Summer Reading

[Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge](#)

[Reading Is Fundamental Summer Reading Calendar](#)

[Barnes and Noble Summer Reading Program](#)

