

## Whitko Community School Corporation

### Parent Involvement Policy

#### Overview:

The Whitko Community School Corporation family shares a culture that supports each individual student's learning journey as they become life-long learners and positive contributors to the betterment of society. Our shared vision is a commitment to "Excellence for All" students by focusing on educational programs, aligned curriculum, authentic assessments, and differentiated instruction that provides the conditions necessary for all of our children to be successful in our schools and beyond . We seek to connect with individual students' needs as we are big enough to deliver and small enough to care. Whitko welcomes the partnership of each student's first teacher- the parent –and acknowledges that parent involvement adds to each student's achievement and is important to a positive school environment.

With this foundation of a shared vision, the Whitko Community School Corporation Parent Involvement Policy is developed with consultation of teachers, administrators, and parents of participating students in accordance with the parent involvement guidelines of section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), better known as *The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. This policy will be provided to parents of participating students in one or more of the following ways: Annual Title I parent meetings, mailings, in school distribution, through the Title I page on the Whitko Website, and in annual registration packets.

#### Parent Involvement Policy

The Whitko School Corporation welcomes the involvement of parents in supporting their children in learning and participating in school. The Whitko Community School District will be governed by the following 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.*

Parent involvement increases each student's opportunity for success. In order to build a partnership with parents, the Whitko Community School Corporation will maintain regular communications with parents regarding opportunities for involvement, their children's educational progress, the process of school review and improvement status, and the professional qualifications of teachers. The school

corporation is committed to providing this information in an accessible and clear format, including, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents can understand.

**Policy Components:**

- Parents will be encouraged to participate in the development and revision of the Whitko School Corporation’s local plan under section 1112. Whitko Community School Corporation will seek and accept parent feedback on the district wide plan via annual meetings and the district website.
- Parents will be encouraged to participate in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act* (ESEA), better known as *The No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*. The school corporation will provide opportunity for parents to understand information about the process by which schools are identified for improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. Information will be provided about individual Whitko Schools, including their academic status, corrective action plans, and explanation about parental options, including school choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES). Parents will have opportunity to be informed and involved in school review and improvement plans through a variety of means, for example surveys, meetings in individual buildings, the annual review of district academic status in Whitko Community Schools Board meeting, information shared via the web, and through telephone or email platforms.
- Whitko Community School Corporation will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other supports necessary to assist participating Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Regular meetings with and meaningful feedback from Title 1, Part A schools will insure that the needed supports are in place so that a variety of activities are provided to support parental involvement. Trainings will be provided for school staff, and the school district will provide support for school-determined parental involvement activities in the form of personnel, supplies etc. so that parent activities can take place at the school.
- Whitko Community School Corporation will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement by doing the following:
  - Providing assistance to parents of children served as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State’s academic content standards and student academic achievement standards, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. This will be done via the annual Title I parent meeting, parent /teacher conferences, Academic Open House each Fall, monthly PTO “Parent Spotlights”, parent newsletters, and web resources for parents on the Whitko Community Schools Title I webpage.
  - Providing material and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate to foster parent involvement. Each school staff will receive training during professional development time as to how to support parents of students in these endeavors, and training and materials will be given parents at the annual Title I meeting,

spring and fall parent/teacher conferences, PS to kindergarten transition meetings and other meetings/interactions to provide opportunities for parents to help in the decision-making related to the education of their children. Additional parent training resources will be available on the individual school websites. These trainings and web resources will be developed with the support of the Whitko Community School Corporation.

- Educate educators with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between the parents and the school. The Whitko Community School District will partner with parents and school personnel to configure specific activities to achieve this objective.
- Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, to the extent practicable, is in a language that parents can understand. The Whitko School Corporation will seek meaningful feedback from parents as to their needs for information and supports to understand information.
- Other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request. Parent requests can be submitted via the Title I page of the Whitko Website, as well as in Annual Title I Parent Meetings, and other school-based opportunities.
- Whitko Community School Corporation, to the extent feasible and appropriate, will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I, A with strategies under other programs as applicable (Head Start, state-run preschool programs, and Title III language instructional programs). Staff of these programs will be invited to be a part of training nights in the district.
- Whitko Community School Corporation will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of parental involvement in improving the academic quality of the schools served with Title I, Part A funds including the following:
  - Identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Parents will be surveyed by the WHitko Community School District via phone in their native language to the extent possible, and be given opportunity to submit feedback on barriers via telephone calls, surveys during conferences, and paper-based checklists.
  - Use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and, if necessary to revise the LEA's parental involvement policies. Results of surveys, checklists, etc. will be shared at Title I annual meeting to review the parental involvement policy.
- Whitko Community School Corporation will seek to involve parents in the activities of schools served under Title I, A by helping the school schedule a variety of activities at different times

and in response to student needs, and by communicating with parents in a variety of ways to increase involvement.

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