

# District and School Parent/Guardian Involvement Policy

## Dartmouth Public Schools Title I

The Dartmouth Public Schools and its Title I School Wide Elementary Program are committed to continuously improving the opportunities for parents to be actively involved in their child's learning at home and in school. The district welcomes the participation of parents/guardians in support of students' learning and recognizes that parental involvement increases the opportunities for student success. We recognize the important role of parents as their child's first teacher. Research shows that when schools effectively involve parents and engage them as partners in their child's education, there is a positive effect on student success. It is the goal of the Title I program to provide for parent participation in the development and evaluation of its program, while promoting ongoing, two-way clear communication between home and school. The goal of family engagement is to develop a partnership between home and school that ensures that ALL children become lifelong learners.

The district will provide information to parents/guardians and to the public regarding any actions taken by the district to address the problems and/or successes that led to the identification of a school's accountability and assistance level.

This district family engagement plan serves to outline overall expectations for parent involvement activities and programs, establish an environment for parental participation in Dartmouth's Title I programs at the school level and identify the support which the Title I program can provide to assist schools in achieving their goals for active parent participation.

### Components of a Title I Program:

- Highly qualified teachers in all core content area classes
- High quality and ongoing professional development for ALL teachers, principals and paraprofessionals
- Strategies to increase family engagement for ALL families
- Title I supplemental small group instruction which provides direct instruction in ELA and/or Math to students working below grade level by highly qualified teachers.
- Title I small group instruction is in addition to what students are receiving in class, not instead of. The small group instruction is supplemental.



The Title I program, and schools will provide for family engagement by:

- Creating an open, friendly atmosphere
- Offering a variety of services including special topic workshops, informational meetings, and family engagement activities and events to support responsible, informed parenting
- Communicating with families through newsletters, informational bulletins, mailings, telephone contact, e-mail, and a Title I link that can be found on the district and school home page
- Providing published Title I Newsletter
- Address the importance of communication between teachers and parent/guardians on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
  - Parent/Teacher conferences
  - Progress reports
  - Reasonable access to staff