



Shippensburg Area School District

317 North Morris Street
Shippensburg, PA 17257
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Title I Reading Program District Family Involvement Policy – Nancy Grayson Elementary 2020-2021

VISION:

Nancy Grayson Elementary School is a nurturing educational community dedicated to preparing students for higher levels of thinking, learning, and social interactions. The staff recognizes that family and school engagement is the foundation for student success in preparing our students for higher levels of thinking, learning, and social interactions.

PURPOSE:

Nancy Grayson Elementary School staff acknowledge that families and schools have vital roles in ensuring that a child's development and education is a shared partnership that requires a collaborative effort. Each partner has the responsibility to be knowledgeable and to foster a climate of respect and cooperation for the benefit of all students.

DEFINITIONS:

Family Member – The term “family member” refers to the legal guardian or other person standing in “loco parentis” such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare. The terms parent/guardian and family member may be used interchangeably throughout these documents.

School – Nancy Grayson Elementary School is one of six schools in the Shippensburg Area School District, composed of students living within the boundaries of the Shippensburg Area School District.

Staff - The term “staff” refers to all employees (professional and support) working at Nancy Grayson Elementary School in the Shippensburg Area School District (Shippensburg, PA).

FAMILY-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP: Although parents/guardians/families may be diverse in culture, language, resources and needs, all share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. The Nancy Grayson Elementary School staff recognizes their responsibility to help eliminate barriers that impede family involvement and to create an environment supportive of comprehensive family involvement programs that have been developed in collaboration with parents/guardians. Therefore, this policy shall establish programs and practices that reflect the specific resources and needs of Nancy Grayson Elementary School students and their families.

TITLE 1 Requirements: Nancy Grayson Elementary School staff shall incorporate Title 1, Part A parent involvement requirements into this policy, programs and practices and ensure that all parents/guardians are informed about the opportunity and expectation to participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. The district shall ensure that family members are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making, recommending allocation of resources, and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child, and that of all the students in the school.

EXPECTATIONS: Family members shall be invited to actively participate in development of school board policies, strategic planning processes, school improvement plans, programs and services and the budgeting process.

Recommendations from Family/School Partnerships shall focus on improving student achievement for the entire school body, and may target specific student populations. Family/School Partnerships shall emphasize a strengths-based perspective that builds resiliency factors, and serves to leverage the resources and assets of family members, schools and communities to address needs and improve learning and achievement opportunities for all children.

- ❖ Family Members will be invited to become involved in the Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) for the school and be given information about the dates and times for the PTO meetings.

- ❖ Family Members will receive notification of the annual Title 1 meeting to discuss the Title 1 program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved.

- ❖ Meetings, including teacher conferences, will be held at different times during the day to accommodate as many family members' schedules as possible.

- ❖ Title 1 Parent Involvement funds will be distributed to each school each year, to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family involvement activities as determined by the Nancy Grayson Elementary School Title I Building Committee. Those activities must be student achievement oriented, school-related, or family member training sessions.

- ❖ The Shippensburg Area School District is a district-wide Title 1 program. Nancy Grayson Elementary School Parent-Teacher Organization will be given representation on the SASD district-wide Parent Advisory Council, which will be involved in the joint development of the School-wide Program plan for Title 1.

- ❖ Staff and family members will be included in the joint development of the School Improvement Plans under Section 1116, if identified for school improvement.

- ❖ Family Members will be provided with a description and explanation of curriculum in use at the school, along with the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children.

This will be accomplished by:

- Back to School Night – August 2020
- Teacher Conferences – November 2020
- Title I Parent Meeting/Literacy Night - March 2021
- Open communication with all staff and administrators

❖ Staff will offer family members an opportunity to participate in regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and the staff will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

❖ Staff will provide assistance to family members in understanding the State's academic content standards and student achievement standards, local academic assessments and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children.

❖ A School-Family Compact will be developed between family members and Nancy Grayson Elementary School staff that outlines how family members and the entire school staff will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.

❖ Staff will provide materials and training to family members to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training or use of technology, as appropriate.

ELEMENTS OF EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS: Nancy Grayson Elementary School staff are committed to implementing the following elements of effective programs:

- ❖ Creating a welcoming, safe, accessible environment for students;
- ❖ Expanding family member, community, and school communication;
- ❖ Encouraging supportive home environments;
- ❖ Promoting and encouraging volunteer support from family members and community;
- ❖ Facilitating learning opportunities outside of schools;
- ❖ Coordinating resources and services;
- ❖ Intensifying community engagement;
- ❖ Supporting youth development

EVALUATION: Family members and staff will participate in evaluating the implementation and effect of this policy on student success. The evaluation will be used to improve and/or create practices to enhance family member involvement. This policy will be reviewed and/or revised as needed by a designated advisory group that involves family members and school staff.