

Martha's Vineyard Public Schools
Policy for Title I Parent Involvement

Parents are the first and most influential teachers for their children. Parents can act as educational role models establishing basic foundations and influencing understandings about education for their children. Schools are able to provide a structured, professional framework to expand, complement and support parents in their educational roles at home. Parents and school together, can solve problems, express opinions, influence decisions, and educate the children. The Martha's Vineyard Cooperative Title I Project is committed to parent involvement. To provide for this parent involvement, the following policies have been developed and accepted by the Parent Advisory Council.

NOTIFICATION OF SERVICES:

By October 1 of each school year, each school receiving Title I funds shall mail a notice to parents of each eligible child. This notice shall inform parents about the Title I Program; about their rights to be involved and consulted in the planning, development and operation of that program; that an initial meeting will be held for such parents to discuss the possible form of parent consultation and involvement; and of the time and place of such meeting, which shall be selected in a manner to encourage maximum attendance.

ANNUAL MEETING:

The annual meeting shall be held in October of each school year. At this meeting, school personnel shall explain the nature of the Title I Program; describe the rights of parents and the obligations of the school set down by Title I regulations and these policies; state that copies of information about the program, Title I regulations, program applications and evaluations are available; explain that the purpose of the meeting is for parents to decide how they wish to implement parent involvement; to select a parent to chair the meeting and to select parents to serve on the Parent Advisory Council.

PARENTS RIGHT TO ORGANIZE:

Parents shall be free to organize themselves in a manner of their own choosing for the purposes of providing school officials with their advice and consultation. Some topics to be addressed may be the needs assessment, determination of program goals and objectives, determination of educational strategies, implementation of projects, development of the program applications and program evaluations. The primary responsibility for meeting this requirement lies with the parents, but school officials shall offer any reasonable assistance to help parents communicate with one another.

PARENT CONSULTATIONS:

Parents and school officials shall jointly agree on methods for school officials to consult with parents on all aspects of Title I planning, design and implementation.

RESPONSES TO PARENT RECOMMENDATIONS:

School officials shall provide a full and timely response to any parent recommendations concerning the program. To the extent that any such recommendations are rejected, school officials shall explain the basis for their decision. If the recommendation was made in writing, the response shall be in writing.

SUPPORT FOR PARENTS:

School officials shall be prepared to offer such support and resources as are needed for effective and full parental involvement and consultation. These shall include, but not be limited to meeting space, materials and support staff; effective and ongoing training to support parents to work effectively with one another and with their children at home; opportunities to view the operation of programs through classroom visits and other reasonable means; and a budget sufficient to fund parent activities called for under these policies.

ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLICIES:

In developing methods and policy guidelines for parent consultation, parents and school officials shall annually conduct a thorough review of parent consultation procedures. At this time, they will be able to determine the causes of any barriers to full and effective parent involvement. This information shall then be used to make appropriate revisions to increase the effectiveness of parent consultation.

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS:

After the first year of this parent consultation process, the annual meeting and subsequent meetings shall be held each year as stated, but shall be organized by parents through the parent involvement mechanism established the previous year. If parents are not available through this mechanism, school officials shall organize meetings in the manner consistent with these policies.

PARENT LIAISON:

A parent liaison to each school will help organize meetings and disseminate information.

LEGAL REF.:

{Adoption Date} 3.28.2007 by the All Island School Committee

1 st Reading	– 12.07.2006
1 st Reading MVRHS	– 01.08.2007
2 nd Reading	– 02.22.2007
3 rd Reading	– 03.28.2007