

No Child Left Behind

In many sections NCLB requires that community and parents be involved and this involvement is usually called “consultation.” Consultation requirements occur on a number of different levels – federal, state, and local school district levels, and often call for “representatives” of parents and/or the community to be selected to advise NCLB officials.

Please be aware that many of the community and parent decision-making opportunities pertain to Title I, but many other programs under NCLB, not part of Title I, require parent and community consultation as well.

Provisions that require ACTION

1. The law now says that parents are to be “afforded substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children. (Title I, Sec. 1001 (12))
2. Parents and community representatives need to part of this critical planning process. This requirement gives them the opportunity to work with educators to (1) develop a plan that addresses how the SEA, LEA, and individual schools will promote the social, emotional, and academic growth of students, and (2) shape Title I services that include meaningful parental involvement policies and school practices that lead to increased student achievement.
3. There are over ten different roles used in NCLB to describe the ways that parents and/or community organization can become involved. They are:
 - a. Advice and recommendation
 - b. Evaluation and review of plans
 - c. In “consultation with” or “shall be consulted by” or in “meaningful consultation with” or “in systematic consultation with.”
 - d. Opportunity to submit comments or challenge a decision
 - e. In participation with
 - f. School district shall work with
 - g. Input being sought
 - h. \in partnership with

Often, NCLB requires that “representatives” of certain groups such as parents, community based organizations, volunteer organizations, and service organizations among others be included in advisory.

While the various involvement and consultation roles provided for in NCLB are not specifically defined in the statute, it is recommended that community members and parents take advantage of each and every opportunity that the law talks about their involvement, including the limited literacy, limited English proficiency, and disabilities, It should strive to be in partnership with the school

entities, and should be ongoing throughout the process of NCLB development and implementation.

Action Opportunities for Parent Leaders: NCLB

- Work with the state to develop parental involvement policies that include linking schools and education to community endeavors and advocacy, even though NCLB does not require it.
- Contact state and local education officials to get copies of the Title I plan. Ascertain who is on the planning team, and learn about the various ways parents and representatives of parents' organizations have been included in the planning of Title I. This should be done for all the programs included NCLB.
- Determine how state and local plans will be distributed to the public and inform other parents how to obtain copies of the plan.
- Provide input to the state as it compiles models of effective parental involvement practices; inquire about the criteria and research used to determine model practices.
- Parent leaders should make sure that a representative group of parents participate in the development of the parent involvement policy and parent involvement compact.
- Once a policy and compact have been developed, make sure they are carried out appropriately and reviewed on a regular basis.
- Parent leaders should make sure that the school district appoint a school support team that includes parents and community members for schools identified as needing improvement, restructuring and/or corrective action
- Make sure that all supplemental services offered are approved by the state and progress monitored by the school or district.
- Ask to be a part of the team of community representatives and parents evaluating state performance regarding school/community links and parental involvement; this information should be part of the annual state review sent to the Secretary of Education.
- Ensure that your school district, when it implements programs and activities around parent involvement, are actually done so with meaningful consultation of parents of participating children.

For information on parent involvement in NCLB, see the NCLB

Guide for Parents:

<http://www.ed.gov/parents/academic/involve/nclbguide/parentsguide.html>