

## **Johnson STEAM Academy Title I Parent Involvement Policy 2015-2016**

*It is the policy of the Cedar Rapids Community School District that parents of participating children shall have the opportunity to be involved jointly in the development of the district plan and in the district's review process for the purpose of school improvement. Recognizing that parent involvement is the key to academic achievement, we seek to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students. The district provides coordination, technical assistance and other supports necessary to aid in the planning and implementation of parent involvement activities. The district encourages parent involvement and supports this partnership through providing information about standards and assessments; providing training and materials for parents to help their children; educating school personnel about involving parents and the value of parent contributions and developing roles for community organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools.*

1. The jointly developed and agreed upon written policy is distributed to all parents through the Parent Handbook which is distributed to every family at the time of registration.
2. Johnson School will hold two annual family events, one in the fall and one in the spring. Notification will be sent through fliers, newsletters, social media sites, and automated calls.
3. Parents are given assistance in understanding the Title I requirements, standards, and assessments through annual meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
4. Parents receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the expected proficiency levels in the annual progress report distributed to all stakeholders in the spring of the year, through individual reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.
5. Parent recommendations are encouraged and responded to in a timely manner. Verbal or written responses will be given for all recommendations.
6. Parents will be involved with the planning, review and improvement of the schoolwide programs. The vehicle used will be the Building Leadership Team (BLT). If the schoolwide program is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, they may submit comments to the BLT.
7. A jointly developed school/parent compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact also describes the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve our local high standards. It is distributed at fall conference time.
8. The Title I program provides opportunities for parents to become partners with the school in promoting the education of their children both at home and at school. Parents are given help monitoring their student's education. The school also provides other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as requested by parents. Parents are encouraged to participate as volunteers in the school setting. Individual conferences will also be held *upon request*. A reading library, which contains reports on educational issues, books, and videos, are available for parents to check out at Johnson School.
9. The school continues to coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, the parent involvement policy and other programs and activities within the district. Transitional information for students moving from fifth grade to sixth will be provided to parents at Johnson School at the annual spring meeting.
10. An annual evaluation of this parent involvement policy shall be conducted to determine its effectiveness. Findings will be used to design strategies for school improvement and revision of policies. The annual spring meetings will serve as the site for the discussion of program adjustments.

Providing all Cedar Rapids Community School District's children with equal access to quality education is of primary purpose. It is crucial that all partners (students, parents, educators, and communities) have opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this purpose. As these partnerships are mutually beneficial, developing cooperative efforts will ensure improve academic achievement for all students.