The International School of Louisiana
District Wide Parental Involvement Policy
2009-2010

THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OF LOUISIANA receives Title I, Part A funds and is required to jointly develop with and distribute to all parents a parental involvement plan that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The plan establishes the International School of Louisiana's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the school improvement plans (SIP) and handbooks of each school that are submitted to the State Educational Agency (SEA) annually. The International School of Louisiana's goal is to support effective parental involvement and to strengthen student academic achievement.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The International School of Louisiana agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

• The International School of Louisiana will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

• Consistent with section 1118, the International School of Louisiana will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

• The International School of Louisiana will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its SIP and handbooks developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

• In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the International School of Louisiana and its schools will provide opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

• If the International School of Louisiana's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

• The International School of Louisiana will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

• The International School of Louisiana will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental involvement means the participation of

parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

• The International School of Louisiana informs parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the:

LOUISIANA PARENTAL AND INFORMATION RESOURCE CENTER
4521 Jamestown Avenue, Suite 5
Baton Rouge, LA 70808
225.926.1815

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The International School of Louisiana will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

(A) Include parents in all appropriate committees in all schools

(B) Solicit input and feedback from community members on the status of the schools

(C) Assure that all parents are involved to the fullest extent in their children's education

2. The International School of Louisiana will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

(A) Include parents in all appropriate committees in all schools

(B) Include parents on SIP teams in every school

3. The International School of Louisiana will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

(A) A family liaison will be assigned to each Title 1 school.

(B) The district will allocate Title 1 funds earmarked for parental involvement activities

(C) The district will allocate professional development funds to assist schools in attending state and regional workshops

4. The International School of Louisiana will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs by:

(A) Informing parents through school newsletters and district website about the availability of other family support programs and activities

(B) Whenever possible engage representatives of other organization to make presentations or deliver workshops to ISL parents

5. The International School of Louisiana will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of this evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

(A) An evaluation instrument will be developed and distributed by the school family liaison through home-school communication methods including both paper and electronic delivery. The evaluation instrument will be available in multiple languages as needed by the school community.

(B) Parents will be encouraged to complete the evaluation survey

(C) The policy will be discussed and evaluated at an annual Parent Meeting with the Head of School and Principal.

(D) Evaluation results will be used to inform policy and revise plans as required

6. The International School of Louisiana will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below.

(A) The International School of Louisiana shall hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title 1, Part A programs, and to explain the Title 1, Part A requirements and the right of the parent to be involved in Title 1, Part A programs. The International School of Louisiana will convene the meeting at a convenient time to parents and will offer a flexible number of additional parent involvement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title 1, Part A programs and will encourage them to attend.

(B) On the request of parents, the International School of Louisiana will provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestion as soon as practically possible.

(C) The International School of Louisiana will provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in Section 200.56 of the Title 1 Final Regulations (67 Federal Register 71710, Dec 02, 2002).

(D) The district shall provide to parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title 1, Part A programs that include a description and explanation of the school's curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

(E) The district shall provide to each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State Assessment in at least Math, Language Arts and Reading.

(F) The International School of Louisiana shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

The district will use the following methods to achieve understanding of the above topics:

- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent-Teacher Organization Meetings
- ISL Website
- Parent-Student Handbook
- Monthly newsletter
- Weekly e-mail update
- Community outreach programs
- Home-School Connection folder for classroom communication

(G) Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and Parent Nights mentioned in the school's SIP plans, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

(H) Educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, through ongoing professional development.

(I) The district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with community partners and other family resources and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers and informational sessions, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

(J) Ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand by offering notices in home-languages, weekly newsletters sent home with the elementary grade students, newsletter announcements, website weekly announcements, and other means to reach every parent.

7. All SIP plans and appropriate sections of each school's handbook contain further explanation.

PART III. ADOPTION

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on, with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the annual public meeting for comments, committee meetings, sign-in sheets, and agendas of parent involvement opportunities held at each school.

This policy was adopted by the International School of Louisiana. The District will distribute this policy to all parents in the handouts and by posting the International School of Louisiana Parental Involvement Policy on the District's website.

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Sean Wilson
Head of School/Superintendent