The Lincoln School Committee believes that the education of children is a responsibility shared by the school, the family and the community. To support the school district’s commitment to all children, it is essential that effective partnerships be developed that engages each of these key stakeholders.

In support of this belief, the School Committee is committed to the development, implementation and annual evaluation of family and community involvement within each school’s strategic plan. These family/community involvement plans will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature and will reflect the needs of the local community. They will be consistent with current state and federal requirements but at the minimum include these recognized standards for successful family and community partnerships.

All families are welcomed into the school community. The school will provide all families with opportunities to become active participants in the life of the school, feel connected to each other, to school staff and to what students are learning and doing in class.

Families and school staff engage in regular, meaningful communications about student learning

Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support student learning and healthy developments both at home and school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices and programs.

Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect student’s families and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community service and civic participation.

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Lincoln Public Schools agrees to implement the following statutory parent involvement requirements in all Lincoln Schools:

The school district 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 school district 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 school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full 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, include alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA 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 school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one 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 school district 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;

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

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN). The district will make each parent group aware of the resources available through RIPIN.

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

1. Lincoln Public Schools 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 including but not limited to:

   - Parents are invited to participate in the district wide committee to develop the policy

   - Parents will receive a copy of the policy to review and provide feedback to the committee for feedback

   - A copy of the policy will be made available on the district web site for community feedback

   - Parent groups will review the policy each fall and provide feedback to the committee
2. Lincoln Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
   - Annual Public School Committee Meeting
   - Annually by all School Improvement Teams
   - Annually by all PTO/PTA and LSEAC Committees

3. Lincoln Public Schools 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 by developing:
   - District Strategic Plan
   - School Report Nights
   - School Web Site
   - School Newsletter
   - Parent Resource Center
   - News Release

4. Lincoln Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs by:
   - Child Outreach Coordinator
   - Monthly Parent Early Intervention Workshops
   - Preschool Newsletters

5. Lincoln Public Schools 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 the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- Review Parent SALT Survey Data: Surveys completed by parents and review by SIT teams
- Review Survey Works: Surveys completed by parents and reviewed by SIT teams
- Family Friendly Assessments: Assessment facilitated by RIPIN and completed by parents and SIT team to review

1. Lincoln Public Schools will build the 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 school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

   - The State’s academic content standards (currently GLE’s/GSE’s but transitioning to Common Core 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:
B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Parent Workshops
- School Newsletters
- School and District Web Site

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, 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, by:

- Parent Workshops
- School Newsletters
- School and District Web Site

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Child Outreach Coordinator
- Monthly Workshops
- Student Assessment Feedback Sessions

E. The school district will take the following actions to 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:
• ELL Coordinator will facilitate and distribute newsletters and notifications in several languages for parents
• ELL Teachers will contact parents directly through telephone or email contact to inform them of upcoming activities

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 a review of parent feedback surveys completed at workshops and/or online.

The School Committee supports professional development opportunities for staff, family and community members to enhance their understanding of effective family and community involvement strategies. The Committee also recognizes the importance of administrative leadership in setting expectations and creating a climate that supports family and community participation.

The School Committee will engage families and community members in the decisions and practices of the school system as a whole, using the components listed above where applicable.

Policy First Reading: May 16, 2011
Policy Second Reading: June 13, 2011
Policy Adopted: June 13, 2011

TOWN OF LINCOLN SCHOOL COMMITTEE, Lincoln, Rhode Island