

**Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts**

# **EBR Parent & Family Engagement Policy**

## **2017-2018**

Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts School recognizes that \*parents are their children's first teachers and that parents function as educators throughout their children's lives. More than thirty years of research show that student academic success and high self-esteem are closely related to parent involvement in education from pre-kindergarten through high school. Children whose families are involved in their education have higher grades and test scores, better attendance, and are more likely to graduate from high school and attend college. In fact, the best predictor of a student's success in school is not income or social status but how much a student's family participates in his or her education.

The administration, faculty and staff of Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts is committed to establishing programs and practices\*\* that create a climate of mutual trust and respect that support substantive parent involvement. The East Baton Rouge Parish School System supports having a PTA (Parent Teacher Association) in every school and provides for the formation of committees and organizations such as the School Improvement Team (SIT).

At Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts we also believe that the education of our children is a shared responsibility. Involvement by the school, the family, and the community creates a stronger educational system and improves the quality of life for the students, their families, and the entire Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts community.

In order to build an effective home-school partnership, Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts will provide the following:

**\*\*\*Communication**—Establish various forms of communication (school to home, home to school, central office to home and vice versa) that encourage regular discussion about school programs and children's academic progress and behavioral management.

**\*\*\*Parenting**—Provide information that supports families as they create home environments that value education and nurture children's curiosity for learning.

**\*\*\*Student Learning at Home**—Share information with parents about how to provide learning activities at home, help students with homework, and plan for success in school.

**\*\*\*Volunteering**—Encourage and recruit parents' participation in school activities both in and outside of the classroom, developing program ideas which respect the diverse needs of families.

**\*\*\*School Decision & Making and Advocacy**—Recruit and develop parents as leaders in school-based decision-making and in advocating for the welfare of students.

**\*\*\*Collaborating with the Community** – Identify, enlist and welcome community resources—of all types— to strengthen schools, families, and student learning.

Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts School is committed to reaching out to all parents including those who may not have had a positive experience in school or for whom English is not their first spoken language. Further, the school seeks, encourages, and develops relationships with community agencies and organizations that provide services to children in order to encourage them to share in this investment in the lives of children.

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## **Title I Parental Involvement Policy**

The East Baton Rouge Parish School System recognizes that schools that receive funds through the Title I federal program have specific criteria for parental involvement.

Provision for substantive parental involvement in these schools is established in Section 1118 of No Child Left Behind. This provision mandates the following components:

**Communication:** Clear and consistent communication is the foundation of effective parental involvement. Schools must provide Title I information to parents in an understandable, uniform format. Upon request, information shall be provided in alternative formats, including providing auxiliary aids and giving information in a language which parents can understand.

**Program Development:** Families will be encouraged to become active participants in Title I program planning, decision-making, and activities. Each Title I school will develop with parents, and update annually, a school-level plan for parent involvement. A written copy will be distributed to parents.

**Partners in Learning Compact:** Each child shall have an individually devised partner in learning compact, which designates specific goals and objectives for the child, the school and the parents.

**School Choice:** Parents, whose children attend a school that does not meet adequate yearly progress (as measured by the Louisiana Department of Education) within a specified time period, have the option of transferring their children to another designated school, under guidelines set by the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

**Teacher Certification:** In keeping with the requirements of the 2002 Federal No Child Left Behind Education Act, upon request, schools shall provide parents of children in Title I schools information about the certification status of their children's teachers.

**Volunteering:** Schools shall provide opportunities for parents to utilize their skills within and outside the classroom for nurturing their children's academic success.

**Coordination and Support:** Program coordination and technical assistance for Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities will be provided through the efforts of the Title I Parental Involvement Coordinator and the EBRPSS Office of Federal Programs. Working with school-based personnel, the Community Relations Coordinator will coordinate the use of annual Partners in Learning compacts and other on-going family involvement activities. Additional school-based outreach activities will also be developed and implemented with a focus on increasing active parental involvement in and building on current activities that have been successful.

**Building Capacity for Parental Involvement:** Activities designed to build the capacity for strong and meaningful parent involvement in Title I schools shall include the use of Home-School Liaisons to foster communication, parent participation on School Improvement Teams, school level Parent Advisory Councils, and opportunities to volunteer. Parents of Title I students will be provided with timely information about the Title I program and parent involvement requirements for schools under the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, information about curriculum and proficiency levels students are expected to achieve (Back-to-School Night), school and individual assessment information and results, including an explanation of those results, and opportunities for regular meetings related to the education of their children.

**Parent Involvement Activities:** Parents will be provided with opportunities to add to their skills so that they may continue to work with their children to improve achievement. The types and extent of activities will vary dependent upon the assessed needs of each school and school community. At convenient times, each Title I school will hold at least one parent workshop yearly to address topics of interest to parents.

**Integration with Other Programs:** The East Baton Rouge Parish School System's Title I Program will coordinate and integrate its parental involvement strategies with those of other local, state and federal programs such as the Head Start and Even Start programs, through regularly scheduled meetings. Community groups will be encouraged to help schools develop and implement programs that promote educational goals and support high academic achievement for all students.

**Evaluation:** Assessing the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under Title I will be conducted throughout the year with the involvement of parents. Measures will include:

Family Night parent evaluations

Attendance at Family Night and other parent involvement activities

Annual program evaluation completed during the Spring semester of each school year.

Results of school-based survey "Measure of School, Family, and Community Partnerships" by J.L. Epstein et al., ©2002 Corwin Press, Inc.

**Notes:**

\*The word "parents" is inclusive of adult guardians of children in the school system. In addition, the parental involvement policy underscores the importance of the participation of adult family and community members in students' lives.

\*\*This policy complies with the requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act. NCLB mandates involving parents in developing a parental involvement policy, asking that parents share responsibility for student progress in academic achievement and community involvement. NCLB charges schools with the responsibility of creating programs and resources for effective parental involvement. In addition, this policy is inclusive of the specific responsibilities assigned to Title I schools. Specific policy implementation action steps are identified in Addendum II (Parent Involvement Policy Guidance Document).

\*\*\*These six categories are based on the six types of parent and family involvement as defined by Dr. Joyce Epstein in *School, Family, and Community Partnerships: Your Handbook for Action*.

Revised / Approved:

[click here to insert date](#)

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Please remove this page and return to your child's school, so that we may have a record that you have received and reviewed this policy.

Thank you,

click here to insert principal's name

click here to insert date

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This is to certify that I have received and reviewed a copy of "click here to insert school name School's Parental Involvement Policy."

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Parent's Signature

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Date