

June 20, 2018

Maine Virtual Academy (MEVA) Title IA Parent Involvement Policy (District Level)

This district-level policy has been developed in cooperation with the parents/guardians of students participating in MEVA's Title IA programs. It provides an understanding of the shared responsibility of the school system and parents/guardians in improving students' academic achievement and school performance. The Head of School/Superintendent/designee will be responsible for distributing this policy to parents/guardians of students participating in MEVA's Title IA programs.

Because parent involvement is so important to a student's success in school, the Governing Board encourages regular participation by parents/guardians in all aspects of MEVA's Title IA programs.

MEVA provides opportunities for parent/guardian involvement that are aligned with the requirements of Title IA programs set forth in law as follows.

- A. MEVA involves parents/guardians in the joint development of the school district's plan to help disadvantaged students meet challenging achievement and academic standards and in the process of school review and improvement by:
 1. Establishing a district-level Parent Advisory Committee with parent/guardian representatives from Middle School and High School;
 2. Establishing effective and ongoing two-way communications between MEVA Title IA faculty, and parents/guardians; and
 3. Developing a district-wide brochure and website to communicate with parents/guardians about Title IA plan and to seek their input and participation; and

- B. MEVA provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating school(s) in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by:
 1. Providing information to parents/guardians about the district and various instruments that will be developed or used to monitor student progress;
 2. Providing district-level workshops to assist individual schools in planning and implementing improvement activities; and
 3. Seeking input from parents/guardians in developing workshops that will help them become more effective partners with the schools in encouraging academic achievement.

- C. MEVA builds the capacity of schools and parents/guardians for strong parental involvement by:
 1. Engaging school Parent-Teacher Committees (PTCs) to seek out and involve parents/guardians through their communications and informational meetings;
 2. Promoting cooperation between MEVA and other agencies or school/community groups to furnish learning opportunities, increase awareness of support services, and disseminate information regarding parenting skills and child/adolescent development; and

3. Provide ongoing communication about opportunities to serve on the Parental Advisory Committee, volunteer in the school(s), and learn how to work more effectively with their children to extend and reinforce learning and foster achievement.
- D. MEVA coordinates and integrates parent/guardian involvement strategies for Title IA programs with those of other programs by:
1. Involving school district and Middle School and High School representatives from other programs to assist in identifying specific population needs; and
 2. Sharing data between programs to assist in developing new initiatives to improve student academic achievement and school improvement.
- E. MEVA conducts, with the involvement of parents/guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the school(s) served under Title IA, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background), using the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent/guardian involvement, and revising, if necessary, the parent/guardian involvement policies described in this section by:
1. Evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent/guardian involvement policy through a variety of means such as surveys, workshops, focus groups, and informal meetings involving district and school administrators, teachers, and parents/guardians;
 2. Identifying and overcoming barriers to effective evaluation and input, e.g., language support for parents/guardians who do not speak English or have limited English proficiency, scheduling multiple meetings at various times of day or night, providing a means of transportation or means of virtual/phone participation; and
 3. Identifying potential policy changes and program improvements.
- F. MEVA involves parents/guardians in the activities of the school(s) served under Title IA by:
1. Keeping parents/guardians informed of the objectives of MEVA's Title IA programs;
 2. Providing communication and calendar information to alert parents/guardians of meetings or events and encouraging their participation; and
 3. Promoting opportunities for parents as volunteers in the classroom and in school programs.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. § 6318

Adopted: December 6, 2006

Revised: August 2, 2017