

Title 1 Family Involvement Policy
For
Graham Road Elementary School

Fairfax County Public Schools' Title 1 program is established to improve student achievement and help all students meet the objectives of the Fairfax County Program of Studies and Virginia Standards of Learning.

To ensure that this goal is met, a partnership with families is essential. Therefore, Graham Road Elementary School commits to working in partnership with families in the following ways:

- Inform families at Back-to-School Night and at a fall PTA meeting that Graham Road is a Title 1 School and the advantages of being a Title 1 school for students. Introduce the Home-School Compact and its purpose.
- Give parents timely information to understand the curriculum, the Virginia Standards of Learning and school level assessments such as, Developmental Reading Inventory at parent conferences, principals' coffees and PTA meetings.
- Provide varied programs and information that will assist families in supporting their children's academic achievement to include quarterly family meeting nights at each grade level, special program meetings within specific grades (i.e. Reading Recovery parent information meeting) principals' coffees and Thursday packets.
- Communicate with parents/guardians about student progress by phone, email, conferences, agenda books, Thursday packets, call-out system, IEP conferences, and quarterly awards.
- Provide individual assessment results to parents through conferences and mailed reports. Provide school performance profile information through the FCPS web site and as well as at principal's coffees and PTA meetings.
- Update and use, in consultation with families, students, a Home-School Compact, clarifying what each staff member, student, and parent/guardian will do to share the responsibility for high student performance.
- Work to ensure that families are not prevented from participation in school life due to limited English proficiency or childcare issues. Interpretation (Language Interpretation System) and translation services for as many events and documents as possible will be provided in the three most common languages spoken in the homes of Graham Road students-English, Spanish, Vietnamese. Title 1 funds will be used to provide an English-speaking parent center coordinator, a Spanish speaking parent liaison and a Vietnamese-speaking parent liaison, all of whose jobs are to ensure family involvement in their children's academic careers as well as in issues of health, safety and child development.

- Have parent liaisons and parent center coordinator meet with new parents and give tour of school, introducing them to systems in place regarding the agendas, Thursday Packets and our organizational color coding system for students' academic work.
- Collaborate with other federal programs, such as FECEP/Head Start or Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), to assist families in transitioning to kindergarten. Ensure that FECEP/Head Start parents and are present at school-based kindergarten orientation.
- Build the capacity of teachers, parents and school staff through common study of Ruby Payne's Framework for Understanding Poverty.
- Provide opportunities for parents to serve on decision-making committees, such as the Community School Planning Team and the School Improvement Plan Team.
- Provide opportunities for parents to make suggestions for programs of interest and ways to strengthen parent involvement in our school. Verbal and written surveys are developed to solicit parent input at PTA meetings and principals' coffee.