

District 550 Title 1 Parent Involvement Plan

2011-2012

“Inspiring all to achieve their highest potential”

Underwood School District #550 is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children’s first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children’s success at every step along the way.

PART I. DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS

The Underwood School District agrees to implement the following requirements:

- Underwood School District will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Underwood School District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school level Parent Involvement Plan meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- Underwood School District will incorporate this district-wide Parent Involvement Plan into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parent involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Underwood School District will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If Underwood School District’s plan for Title I 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 Minnesota Department of Education.
- Underwood School District will inform parents and parent organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parent Information and Resource Center in Minnesota (i.e., Minnesota Parent Center, Bloomington, MN). A link is provided on the school web site to www.Pacer.org/MPC

PART II. DISTRICT PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. Underwood School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development/revision of its district parent involvement plan:

Draft a plan after attending a regional meeting on Parent Involvement in Title 1. Distribute the plan to the parents for review and also to the Supt. and Principal. Post the plan on the web site for all parents to review and provide feedback. Include information in the August/ September newsletter and encourage feedback .

2. Underwood School District will involve parents in the joint development of district plan, review and improvement.

Parents are involved in the development of the district plan for Title 1 Services. A meeting was held in June to develop a plan with ten parents. A meeting is held in October for all parents to attend. Parents also meet in the spring to discuss the program, set the budget and to review the plan. Information is given to students who qualify for the program. Also posted on the school web page is information about the Title 1 program and it describes how children qualify for the program and how parents can be involved. Information is provided in the school newsletter about the parent involvement activities. The curriculum review committee includes parent involvement. Their plans and goals are posted on the school web page. A link from the curriculum report links the to MDE report card page. The Perspective web page provides good information on standards and assessments and how to improve academically. Parents and students receive this information from teachers, through testing reports, in the school newsletter, and on the web page. The district staff development committee will set the strategies for improving the effectiveness of parent involvement in the district plan. Parents are also involved on this committee. A survey will be given to parents with students in the Title 1 program to gain information on the effectiveness of the program. A survey will be given annually to determine effectiveness of the program.

3. Underwood School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist the Title I school in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

Accelerated math and reading are used for students and parents are encouraged to be involved in this program with their student. RTI is used in the lower elementary grades to assess student achievement and a graph is used for explaining results to parents. Activities for home are used for improvement in basic skills.

4. Underwood School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent 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 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,
- the state's student academic achievement standards,
- the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

The school hosts a parent program in September to explain test scores and academic standards. All parents are encouraged to participate. Handouts and a power point are used in presenting information. Parent-Student-Teacher Compacts are written and signed by families and staff in the Title 1 program. Teachers make regular contact with parents of Title 1 students to explain services and to consult on how student is progressing. Test scores and benchmarks in the academic standards are reviewed.

On-line grades are available for families to monitor their child's progress. Open computer lab nights are provided at no charge for families to access information. Teacher assistants attend an instate workshop to learn more about working with Title 1 students. They also attend workshops before school to improve their efforts with students and to learn about parent involvement strategies. An open house meeting is scheduled to distribute test reports and explain bench marks and assessment information.

B. The school district will 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 parent involvement, by:

Open computer labs are held monthly to help with technology training. Students may check out computers to take home for support in technology. Training will be held for teachers to explain the Perspective web site and how to involve parents in their extra assignments.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its 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:

The Underwood School will have a parent committee to discuss and evaluate the parent involvement plan. Parents will be encouraged to answer evaluation surveys annually. In the compacts, the parents will be encouraged to provide ideas for involvement.

The Underwood School social worker will provide training for school staff on working with parents and families.

D. The school district will 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:

The Underwood School Early Childhood program has a parent lending library. The advisory council will consider how to better utilize the resources for all parents. The EC Screening program provides materials on educating young children in math, reading, science, and history.

The School District math program provides parents with information on how to work with their students in the education of the child.

Parents are encouraged to attend school to participate in many activities including: "Dad's Pumpkin Patch" with kindergartners, "Mom's Zoo" with kindergartners, parents and grandparents attending plays, families attending "tea programs" and concerts and physical fitness programs. Parents are also involved in nutrition programs, and science and agricultural lessons. Parents are able to assist in the classroom and learn how the students learn in the classroom setting. Parents are involved with history lessons, poetry lessons, and environmental education programs in the upper elementary grades. A book making night and a math activities day was held for all elementary students and their families. The Kindergarten Round-up program involves parent education on involvement in education.

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I 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:

The Underwood District communicates with a written newsletter that is mailed to homes, e-mail, the school web site with links for communicating, Instant Alert messages, voice mail on telephones, and an answering machine for the district. A one page flyer will be available at the fall meeting and at the Open House describing the program. If ESL students are in attendance at the school, then an interpreter will be used if needed.

5. Underwood School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent 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 parent involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parent involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent involvement plan.

A survey will be given to parents of students involved in the Title 1 program asking for their thoughts on the effectiveness of the program for their child and ways to help them be more involved with their child's academic improvement. The survey will be distributed by the teachers to the students to take home. Teachers will be surveyed at the monthly meeting for ways to improve the program and effectively involve the parents.

6. Underwood School District will involve parents in the decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent involvement activities:

The fall parent meeting will discuss the program plan and the budget for the program. The parents are encouraged to share their ideas in developing parent involvement programs.

PART II. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

Underwood School District Parent Involvement Plan may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent involvement.
- Establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith based organizations, in parent involvement activities.
- Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART III. ADOPTION

Underwood School District Parental Involvement Plan has been developed/revised jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes.

This Parent Involvement Plan was developed/revised by Underwood School District on *January 9th, 2012* and will be in effect until revised. Underwood School District will distribute this policy/procedures to all parents of participating Title I children on or before February 1, 2012.

(Signature of Title I Authorized Representative)

(Date)