

WEST MILFORD TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS
APSHAWA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Apshawa School, consistent with the West Milford Township Board of Education policies, is committed to establishing a meaningful home, school, and community partnership. To that end, the following Parent Involvement Policy was developed collaboratively with parents of the Apshawa School who make up our Parent Advisory Committee. We believe the parent is the first teacher and we want to encourage our parents to remain involved in the child's education throughout their academic lifetime.

The Apshawa School and Parent Advisory Committee will jointly develop the Parent Involvement Policy. The Apshawa School will distribute the Parent Involvement Policy and parent/teacher, student/school compact to the parents of all students and make the Parent Involvement Policy available to the local community.

The Apshawa School & Parent Advisory Committee will periodically review and revise the Parent Involvement Policy and parent/teacher, student/school compact to meet the changing needs of parents and our school.

Apshawa School agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and 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:

- parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.
- the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY PLAN

Apshawa School will keep parents involved and informed by offering the following programs.

Make available for parent review the following materials:

- District-wide Parent Involvement Policy
- Apshawa School's Parent Involvement Policy
- The district School Parent Compact
- Parent notification of all school programs and of Title I programs/activities

These materials will be distributed to parents at regular Title I parent meetings, Parent Advisory Committee meetings, PTA meetings, parent/teacher conferences, Back to School Night, school website, and written communication with the parent, if eligible, for Title I. In addition, parents of newly eligible participating students will receive the policy upon registration.

Schools eligible for Title I services will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the following:

- *that Apshawa School is eligible for Title I status.*
- *the requirements of Title I and Parent/Student Rights covered by Title I regulations.*
- *criteria for eligibility and exit criteria for Title programs, including multiple measures used for assessing eligibility*
- *notification of meetings will be administered through home/ school letters, newsletters, the web page and the automated phone system.*

To encourage parents' attendance, the school will offer training to parents to improve student success and achievement. Apshawa School will provide parents of participating children with a description and explanation of the curricula in use at our school. The diagnostic assessments used to measure student progress and the grade level performance expectations for students are communicated to parents via:

- Annual Title I parent meetings
- PTA/PTO meetings
- Back to School Night Presentation
- Representative participation in the district-level Title I Parent Involvement Committee
- Parent/teacher conferences
- SEPAC/PTA and Family Activities throughout the year
- Trimester Report Cards
- RealTime

Note: Schools eligible for Title I services will provide parents of participating children opportunities to participate in the Parent Advisory Committee and make suggestions relating to the education of their children through teacher meetings, surveys, or prearranged meetings with the Title I Coordinator, the principal or other appropriate staff. Parents at any time can submit comments/suggestions in writing regarding the school's Parent Involvement Policy to their child's teacher, the Title I Coordinator or the principal.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

1. Apshawa School will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Those events & activities may include but is not limited to:

- Awards Assembly – Celebration of Excellence
- Kindergarten Orientation
- Kindergarten End-of-Year Celebration
- Parent Involvement Events—School-wide, grade level & district-wide activities/events with a focus on:
 - Reading/Language Arts
 - Mathematics
- Partnership with the school's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) in identifying and providing parent events
- Parental access to the REALTIME parent portal (grade and academic reporting system—online & accessible 24/7) and other resources such as web sites, parent organizations, etc.
- Title I Parent link on the district website, www.wmtps.org
- Parent resource link on the district website, www.wmtps.org/wmtps/Parents
- District-wide parent involvement link on the district website
- SOARS (after-school program)
- Builder's STEM
- Math Masterminds
- Page Turners
- Apshawa Buddies
- Summer Literacy Program
- Student Planners for grade 5 and Folders for grades K-5
- Comprehensive Harassment, Intimidation & Bullying program at the school & district levels (maintaining a climate to support teaching and learning)

2. The school will incorporate the School-Parent Compact as a component of its School Parental Involvement Policy:

- The School-Parent Compact will be posted along with the School Parental Involvement Policy on the school and the district web page.
- Annually, the School-Parent Compact will be completed and signed by the teacher, the parent, and the student.
- Reference to the School-Parent Compact and the School Parental Involvement Policy will be included in school newsletters and district notifications.

3. The school will, with the assistance of the district, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school in understanding topics such as the following:
- The State's academic content standards
 - The State's student academic achievement standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators

For Title I schools additional information will include:

- *Eligibility and exit criteria for Title I programs*
- *Multiple measures used to assess edibility and exit criteria*
- *The requirements of Title I*

4. Parents will receive training and necessary information on the topics above through:
- PTA workshops, School-Parent Compact, parent events, list of websites, school-sponsored training and workshops.
 - Upon identification of parental need for information in another language or in another format, the school will take steps to ensure that the parent's request is fulfilled via the option of a translating program available on the district's website.

The Apshawa School Parent Involvement Policy was developed in collaboration with the following people:

Print Name	Signature	Area
1. Dr. Dana Swarts	<i>Dana Swarts</i>	Principal
2. Michael Koger	<i>Michael Koger</i>	Teacher
3. Allison Goodell	<i>Allison Goodell</i>	Teacher
4. Blake Visconti	<i>Blake Visconti</i>	Teacher
5. Laura Seltennich	<i>Laura Seltennich</i>	Parent
6. Sarah Warren	<i>Sarah Warren</i>	Teacher
7. Christina Rodel	<i>Christina Rodel</i>	Teacher
8. Amy Mett	<i>Amy Mett</i>	Parent
9. Marla Rambowski	<i>Marla Rambowski</i>	Teacher
10. _____	_____	_____
11. _____	_____	_____
12. _____	_____	_____
13. _____	_____	_____
14. _____	_____	_____
15. _____	_____	_____