

# **DIMON MAGNET ACADEMY**

## **Parental Involvement Policy FY 2009 - 2010**

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**Lorrie Lix – Academic Coach**  
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Coordinator**  
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**DIMON MAGNET ACADEMY  
PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY**

## **I. DEVELOPMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF POLICY**

This policy was developed by using stakeholder feedback from the NSSE, parent surveys and implementing various strategies to continuously involve parents as stakeholders in the planning and improvement of the Title I programs. Dimon will provide a means for parents to evaluate the current Title I programs annually through meetings and surveys. These methods were used this year and input was obtained to ensure parent participation in the development of the School Improvement Plan, the Parent Involvement Policy and other school policies. In order to ensure compliance, the following indicators will serve as documentation of Section I:

- Hosting an Open House PTA meeting, grade-level orientations, Math/Science Night, Technology Night, Thanksgiving Family Day, Parent Breakfasts, regular PTA meetings, and a variety of workshops. Each of these activities serves to inform the parents of this school's participation in Title I, its requirements, and their right to be involved.
- The above mentioned parent involvement activities are offered at varied times and days. Refreshments, incentives, and/or instructional materials are provided.
- Parent newsletters are used to keep parents informed. Parent suggestions are responded to promptly and are strongly encouraged.
- Parents are informed daily through required student planning journals.
- At the beginning of a new school year, an information packet informs parents regarding all school policies and procedures.
- Parent conference requests are honored and strongly encouraged.
- Dimon will collect all non-satisfactory comments regarding the School Improvement Plan and include comments with the plan when submitted to the LEA.

## **II. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

The faculty, staff, students, and parents have worked together to develop effective methods of ensuring the shared responsibility of learning at Dimon. A unique

student planner was developed as a model approach to communicate with parents. This planner is sent home daily to help the parents monitor specific instructional needs and must be signed and returned. Work habits, conduct, homework, attendance, and weekly vocabulary are addressed in this journal.

Effective parenting will not be an occasional event, such as a parent conference. Rather it will be an ongoing process that may include the following strategies that will serve as documentation of Section II:

- At the beginning of a new school year, each parent is given a copy of the grade-level appropriate academic standards and requirements provided by the school district. This document includes benchmarks, testing information, specific skill activities, and informative websites.
- Official academic progress reports are sent home a minimum of two times per grading period.
- Teachers communicate with parents daily via the student planner.
- Conferences are scheduled during, before, or after school hours.
- Early release days are utilized for scheduled parent conferences.
- The parents at Dimon are welcomed to participate in either formal or informal visits, volunteer programs, observations, and teacher conferences.
- In the spring of each year, state mandated tests will be administered to Grades K-5 to assess academic performance. In addition to their individual student report, parents will be informed of the school ranking in the district and district ranking in the state. Scores will also be printed in the local newspaper.
- Parents will see the value of their school contribution as it relates to the education of their child/children.

### **III. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

Dimon was recently commended by a SACS Peer Team for its model efforts in communicating with and informing parents of academic standards and requirements.

The following approaches serve as a documentation of the compliance of Section II:

- The Title I Program and Pre-K Program provide opportunity and funding for parent workshops and family night activities. In the past, such opportunities have included Math, Reading, Technology, and Science topics. Distribution of pertinent training and instructional materials are provided. These events serve to inform, improve, educate, and include the parents in the individual academic progress of the child/children.
- Dimon chose to use available funding for a half time Parent Coordinator
- Summer workshops and professional learning activities throughout the school for the Dimon faculty and staff have been vital in assisting teachers in a clearer understanding of poverty, literacy, the value of positive parenting, professional learning communities, and learning structures.
- Release time is made available to teachers for development of effective instructional practices and grade-level planning.
- The Best Practices Conferences will continue to ensure professional growth.
- Great efforts have been made, by the current administration, to strengthen the current professional learning community. The PTA, parents, Partners-In-Education (PIE), neighborhood childcare agencies, and other businesses have been informed of efforts to strengthen our school community.
- Dimon currently has parent representation on the District Parent Committee, the Local School Council (LSC), the School Improvement Team and an active PTA.
- The District Parent Committee members disseminate appropriate materials and information to the other parents of our school.
- A model approach of monthly parent workshops is held at Dimon for our preschool program. The workshops encourage the "parents as teachers" teaching focus.

#### **IV. ACCESSIBILITY**

Dimon currently has one ESOL student and no migrant students. We have not been made aware of any parent with disabilities. If this state changes, efforts will be made through the district to communicate to the parents in an effective and appropriate format.

## **V. INFORMATION FROM PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCE CENTERS**

Parents are informed about the existence of available parent resources and centers in the fall of each school year at the annual Open House parent meeting and during parent meetings throughout the school year. A parent information center is located at Dimon containing information to help parents help their children do better in school.

## **VI. REVIEW**

Review of the Parental Involvement Policy will be conducted annually and revisions will be made based on identified needs.