

Dear Families,

This is a copy of our Title I parent policy. A Title I parent is one whose child has scored below proficient in either Language or Math on the STAR testing, or who needs extra help, as determined by the child's teacher.

The Eel River Charter School believes that all parents have the same rights for their children. Therefore, this notice is for all ERCS parents.

Currently the Title I services at ERCS include 2 aides. They work in all grades at specified times to provide extra support for struggling students.

Title I, Parent Involvement Policy 2010-11

Policy to be distributed to parents of **all** students at the Eel River Charter School (ERCS)

ERCS' Mission: Working with families in community through holistic teaching to develop educated, responsible, compassionate people

The Eel River Charter School believes that parents/guardians are their children's most influential teachers, and that sustained parent involvement in education contributes greatly to student achievement.

School Parent Contract:

- 1) The Eel River Charter School recognizes its responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction.
- 2) The parents have the responsibility to support their children's learning.
- 3) Ongoing communication between parents and teachers is important for the students' progress. Report cards and conferences, and opportunities to volunteer at school to observe and participate in the educational program are examples of communication.

1) How ERCS will involve parents in joint development of the LEA (the Local Education Agency Plan) and the process of school review for program improvement schools under Section 1116; plan for involvement of Title I Parents in the Program

A minimum of 5 parents will serve on the School Site Council (SSC) to review, update, and approve the annual Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). Title I parents will be personally invited to serve on the SSC, but all parents will be welcome to serve on the council. ERCS is a small community of families (about 37) in a small town. The majority of families have students who qualify for Title I. We do not (except for statistical purposes) categorize parents into Title I and non-Title I groups. To preserve confidentiality and to promote a heterogeneous environment, notifications will go to all parents.

At the mandatory meeting of the SSC, Title I (and other) parents will decide their funding priorities to improve to student achievement. They will review the budget and the Target Assistance Program funded by categorical money. They will review the SPSA, make amendments, and approve it. It will then be submitted to the ERCS Board (comprised mainly of parents) for approval. In addition the School Site

Council and the ERCS Board will evaluate this Parental Involvement Policy yearly, and make amendments as necessary.

The Director of Student Achievement will convene the annual meeting to review the SPSA/Parent Involvement Policy. Meetings will be scheduled at a time convenient to working parents. (For non-English speaking parents, an effort would be made to translate Title I information into their language. So far, this has not been necessary.)

The SSC may elect to continue its meetings for school or parenting improvement, and will be open to any parents who wish to join.

The Board is largely composed of parents. The Board, in conjunction with staff, will review student STAR test results annually and evaluate the ERCS educational program accordingly.

Parents will have the opportunity to participate in hiring new staff, and to monitor curriculum, and evaluate the ERCS program.

Parents will be free to address the ERCS Board with their concerns, and the Board will take appropriate action when necessary. The established complaint procedure ensures that grievances will be taken seriously and proceed toward resolution.

All parents are welcome at Board meetings. They are given credit toward their parent hour contract for the hours they spent there.

2) How ERCS will help the school to plan and implement effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance

Parents will participate in the annual Back to School pot luck dinner, where they are welcomed into the school and they commit to participating in the school for a minimum of 2 hours per week per child. They will attend whole school events like the Christmas Faire, graduation, theatrical performances, science fairs etc. to celebrate student achievement and to bond together as a community. Parents will attend field trips, serve on the School Site Council, serve on the ERCS Board, teach in classrooms, work in classrooms as aides and generally connect with their children at school.

3) How ERCS will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.

The ERCS philosophy is that parents and family, crucial to a child's universe, exert the greatest influence over that child's thinking. What parents truly honor naturally passes to their children. Recognizing this, ERCS stipulates that all families will sign a contract indicating that they will contribute a minimum of two hours per week per child, to help the school function. Each month the hours will be tallied and parents who have not completed their hours will be reminded by letter that they have fallen behind.

ERCS runs on parent power and will continue to do so: parents founded this school, and they form the final link in the chain of command. Depending on their interest, families will choose how they will contribute. They have done everything from administrative tasks (governing the school, negotiating property improvements, ensuring compliance with state law etc.) to planning curriculum and teaching,

working in the classrooms, organizing field trips, fundraising, cleaning bathrooms, dumping garbage, and yard duty.

All parents may request copies of state standards, curriculum synopses, extra teacher conferences, explanation of the curriculum, academic help for themselves to better aid their children etc. All these requests will be honored.

ERCS has updated its grievance policy to better resolve interpersonal difficulties in problem solving. This helps parents, teachers, students and Board Members to focus on better education. The policy provides a step by step set of actions to ensure that all complaints are considered.

4) How ERCS will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Part A and under other programs as specified

Title I Parents will be solicited for their opinions on materials to be purchased, and will approve the SPSA/Parent Involvement Policy annually.

Parents will communicate with teachers on a quarterly basis at report card time, or more frequently if necessary.

Parents who are frequently on campus to contribute hours or to pick up their children will benefit from increased communication with teachers and will be familiar with classroom projects.

When students with learning inefficiencies are given the Complete Academic Battery to generate an individual profile of student learning, parents will be given specific remediation activities to do with their children.

All parents are welcome at ERCS monthly Board Meetings, and are free to voice their opinions about school issues.

5) How ERCS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy and use the findings of the evaluation to design more effective parental involvement.

Each month parent hours will be tallied. If parents fall behind in their hours, they will be contacted and encouraged to find ways to stay connected and contribute to ERCS. The ERCS Board will be committed to helping families meet their commitment to contribute 2 hours per week per child.

Parents will answer a yearly questionnaire indicating their satisfaction with their children's progress, the ERCS curriculum, their access to the ERCS Board and their own involvement with the school.

The results of these questionnaires will be published in the annual program audit and communicated to the ERCS Board. Future plans will be based on the questionnaire findings.

School Site Council members and Board members who are parents will review STAR testing results, the SPSA, the Parent Involvement Policy, and the LEA annually.

6) How ERCS will involve parents in the activities of the Title 1 schools?

Parent hours will be tallied and reviewed monthly. If parents fall behind in their hours, they will be contacted and encouraged to find ways to stay connected and contribute to ERCS. The ERCS Board will be committed to helping families meet their commitment to contribute 2 hours per week per child.

Parents will be recruited for the School Site Council. These parents will seek the opinions of other Title I parents regarding expenditures, comments etc.

Title I parents will be offered extra conference time. Teachers will schedule conferences with parents whenever the parents request it, or whenever teachers feel it would be beneficial for the student's welfare.

7) How does the school provide accessibility and opportunity for parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students?

Our school is very small and family based. For parents with limited English proficiency, we will be translating enrollment documents into Spanish. Many of our teachers speak a little Spanish, and we also translate report cards into Spanish using the Internet when parents have limited English. If necessary we use bilingual students as translators. There is a lot of individual attention given to each student and a lot of one to one contact with their families, especially during parent teacher conferences.

Our school is in a small community where people know each other. If family contact is difficult to make, we search for another relative here who can facilitate communication. Parents of all students contribute to the school by doing parent hours. We also have language learning cd-roms that can be lent to parents who are interested in studying English.

All parents are invited to school events such as plays, the Christmas Faire, the Variety Show, Back to School night, awards ceremonies etc. where they have an opportunity to meet with other parents and join the ERCS community.

Thank you for taking the time to read this policy. Remember this school depends on parents like you!