Harrah Elementary 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 Harrah Elementary and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor Harrah Elementary can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children’s first teachers. Support for their children and for the school is critical to children’s success at every step along the way.

Harrah Elementary recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach the state’s high academic standards. Harrah Elementary intends to include parents in all aspects of the school’s Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students to succeed.

PART I-SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY REQUIRED COMPONENTS

A. Harrah Elementary will jointly develop/revise with parents the school parental involvement policy/procedures and distribute it to parents of participating children and make available the parental involvement policy/procedures to the local community.

*The parent policy will accept input (Maybe “Input on the parent policy will be accepted”) throughout the year. This will allow all parents to have multiple opportunities for input. Too many “inputs,” “contributions,” “or “participation,” or “responses?” The policy will be changed in the spring during the annual parent meeting. The parent policy will be available during the initial registration as well as during the year as requested by the patrons.

B. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school’s participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.

*The annual meeting will be held in the spring (April-June). The meeting will be held in the evening to allow for working parents to attend. The meeting announcement will be in our newsletter in the previous and current month, will be announced by auto call and text to the community, and fliers will be handed out to all students in the building. All students who are
Title 1 students and all students will be invited. I'm confused by this sentence. If it's all students you don't need to put in the part about Title 1 students. Also, are you inviting students? The black wording under section B says that parents shall be invited – it doesn't talk about students going to the meeting.

C. Offer flexible meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services related to parental involvement.

*Additional meetings will be held during our monthly parent involvement meetings. How can additional meetings be held during a monthly meeting? These meetings What meetings? are held in the morning once a month. Additional meetings will be held with parents that include Watch DOGS, student showcase, and monthly involvement meetings. The evening meetings will also include student conference night and day meetings, open house nights, and student content nights such as science, literacy, and math nights.

What about child care? Home visits? Transportation to the events and meetings? It would be pretty cool if we could offer transportation to people that need it at conference time or to evening events. And it couldn’t be too hard to offer child care for everything...don’t high school students need service hours?

D. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school plan under Section 1112, schoolwide under Section 1114, and the process of the school review and improvement under Section 1116.

*Due to the school being involved in the process of Washington State School Improvement the parent involvement process and will be included in the ongoing Indistar tracking program. This ensures that the parent involvement process will be managed and maintained by the building and the district. I don’t understand the previous two statements. As opportunities arise and updates can be made, parents will be notified for potential meetings.

I think this wants us to lay out our plan to show that we are regularly involving the parents in school review and improvement. Do we have regular meetings for this? When are they? How frequently do they occur? Who runs them and what is the agenda?

E. Provide parents of participating children—

a. Timely information about programs under this part.

b. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

c. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.

*The information is posted on the school website in regards to the curriculum used and the assessments to measure student progress. During at least three times during the year there will be opportunities to view the mathematics curriculum and six times yearly
there will be opportunities to view the reading curriculum. Not only to view, but have it explained, to have the rigor and type of assessments discussed, and to have the performance expectations. Parents need to have the opportunity at these meetings to make suggestions. What is the process to respond in a timely manner to the suggestions? Is information about curriculum and forms of assessment and proficiency levels sent home in newsletters? I doubt that many people check the website.

F. If schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the district. *Complaints (there is probably a more positive word than complaints – maybe “feedback opportunities?”) opportunities will be available through Harrah Elementary office and relayed to the Elementary principal and Director of Teaching and Learning. Maybe suggestions from parents can be recorded at any of the meetings above and submitted for review. Again, what would be the process for timely feedback on the suggestions.

G. Harrah Elementary will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resources Center (PIRC) in Washington. *This information will be shared with the District and it will also be shared in the parent compacts and on the monthly newsletter. And shared at other parent meetings and events? Is it something that could fit into the “Services Fair” that we have started at conferences?

PART II-REQUIRED SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

As a component of the school-level parental involvement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

- Conduct a parent/teacher conference in elementary schools, annually (at a minimum), during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child’s achievement.

- Provide frequent reports to parents on their child’s progress.

- Provide parents with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child’s class and observation of classroom activities.

*Harrah Elementary will have two scheduled parent conferences each year. There will be five scheduled fall conference days and also five scheduled spring conference days. The compact will be signed and reviewed at both conferences and it will be handed out upon registration at the beginning of the year. Outside of the conferences, teachers will provide progress reports at a minimum of quarterly and progress reports will be available for parent conferences upon request.
through the teacher or the office. Need to add something about opportunities to volunteer, participate, and observe classrooms.

BUILDING CAPACITY REQUIREMENTS FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and district under this part-

a. Shall provide assistance to the parents of children served by the school or district, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the state’s academic content standards and state student academic achievement standards. State and district assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child’s progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
*Harrah Elementary will provide information regarding academics at parent involvement opportunities throughout the year. This will include but not be limited to monthly informational meetings, parent morning meetings, parent content nights, open house, and conferences.

b. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
* Monthly meetings will be held for parent involvement. During each of these meetings training will be materials available offered to aid in increasing parents’ knowledge of the materials and technology. The building and district newsletter will also give training ideas to parents’ knowledge on how to improve their child’s achievement.

c. Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
*Harrah Elementary will provide staff training to personnel during their Monday in-service trainings. The information will be shared during daily personnel days prior to the start of each school year. What are daily personnel days prior to the start of the school year?

d. Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the 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. *Harrah Elementary will require parental involvement in the early learning pre-school program. Information will also be included in the monthly newsletter to help students and parents achieve higher learning skills in all content areas. Are there any possibilities of partnerships with Head Start or the migrant preschool program to encourage parent involvement? Can the preschool program have any parent nights (or days) for fun family activities like we do for math or literacy night?

e. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. *Parent programs and information will be included in monthly newsletters from the building. Classroom newsletters will also be sent out to students. The process of translation will be included as the district makes the translation service available. The last sentence sounds very unsure, like we may or may not be able to translate.

f. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this part as parents may request. What is the avenue for parental requests? Who reviews and responds to the requests?

g. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training. How can the parents be involved in PD? Cultural awareness and sensitivity PD? Any other involvement in regular PD?

h. May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

i. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. Do we (and can we?) offer transportation and child care to encourage parent participation in meetings and trainings?

j. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents. I don’t know how to do this, but it’s a great idea.

k. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation. Can we arrange to have in-home conferences for parents that don’t come to conferences? Would we have a home visitor available to go with the teacher? Can we have conferences at a neutral spot, like the Cougar Den? Do phone conferences apply to this? How about conferences before school for those who can’t come after?
l. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement. If we don’t have a model that we’ve adopted and are following, perhaps we should find one that loosely fits what we’re doing already. The Harvard Family Research site has lots of information on parental involvement in schools. They have plans for teacher PD around working with families. They have examples of and resources for projects that have been successful, like the Family Engagement for High School Success. Their website:


m. May establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section. Can we turn the parent meetings we now have into advisory committees?

n. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

PART III-ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall 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 a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

*Harrah Elementary will attempt to secure translation to each formal parent group meeting. Should we say “will secure” rather than “will attempt to secure?” There are other things above that we’re saying that we’ll do that we haven’t quite yet done fully. The district will continue to strive to make all materials translated in a timely manner and of equal substance. What does “equal substance” mean? The materials as well as the programs will be made available by qualified personnel. I’m not sure what this sentence means. The parents of limited English students will also have access to meetings to help support parents in services they deem necessary. I’m confused about this sentence, too.
PART IV-ADOPTION

This Harrah Elementary Parental Involvement Policy (Policies?)/Procedures have been developed/revised jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I program, as evidenced by meeting minutes.

The Parent Involvement Policy(Policies?)/Procedures were developed/revised by Harrah Elementary on 03/12/15 and will be in effect for the period of the 2015/2016 School Year. The school will distribute these Parent Involvement Policy(Policies?)/Procedures to all parents of participating Title I children and make it available to the community on or before 04/06/15.

___________________________________________________________
(Signature of Title I Authorized Representative)

___________________________________________________________
(Date)

These parents were involved with the development of this document: