

Sebring Middle School
Title I/Parent Involvement Policy
2009-2010

*“EXCELLENCE Isn’t Achieved Overnight...It’s
Practiced Every Single Day”
“Simply the Best”*

Statement of Purpose

Sebring Middle School upholds the premise that if families are to work with our school as partners in the education of their children, we must provide them with the opportunities and support they need to become involved. Developing effective partnerships with families requires that all school staff (administrators, teachers and support staff) create a safe and sound educational school environment that welcomes parents and encourages them to ask questions and voice their concerns as well as to participate in decision making. Developing partnerships also requires that school staff provide parents with the information and training they need to become involved and that the school reaches out to parents with invitations to participate in their children’s learning through a variety of activities.

Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

Sebring Middle School has an active School Advisory Council/School Improvement Team that meets on the second Monday of every month. The Sebring Middle School Advisory Council is made up of parents, faculty, staff and administration. All participants are active in planning and implementing our school goals.

Annual Meeting for Parents

Parents Involvement meetings at Sebring Middle School, to which all parents are invited, are held throughout the school year:

- School Advisory Council and School Improvement Team meetings held on the second Monday of every month at 5:30 pm,
- Sebring Middle offers three meetings per year in which parents of all students are invited and encouraged to attend.

Home-School Compact

In accordance with Title I regulations, Sebring Middle School utilizes a “Home-School” compact which outlines how parents, staff and students will share responsibility for promoting high student growth and achievement. Parents receive the compact from their child’s Language Arts teacher with a checklist of responsibilities that school staff, parents, and students will share. This compact discussed and given out by the Language Arts teachers and parents are encouraged to sign the compact and return it to school.

Types of Parental Involvement

Parent Involvement activities at Sebring Middle School will provide opportunities for participation in the following ways:

- Parent meetings
(Fall/Winter/and Spring)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
(Conference dates are listed in the Student Handbook)
- Fundraising activities
- Parent Teacher Organization
- Open house/orientation events
- School Advisory Committee

All of these provide positive interaction opportunities, within the school setting, for our families.

Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community

To provide appropriate and meaningful Parent Involvement programs and activities for our families, Sebring Middle School annually assesses the needs of parents, students and school personnel through a variety of measures which include needs assessments, questionnaires, and surveys.

Staff/Parent Communication

Notification of events is disseminated via school newsletters, school website, local newspapers, and ConnectEd phone messages. Translation is provided for school-generated information. Translators are available upon request for conferences and meetings and at all parent events. Parents are also encouraged to check their children’s grades daily via the Parent Internet Viewer Program which is listed on the Sebring Middle School website.

Survey and Evaluation

An annual parent and student survey includes an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parental Involvement program. Results of the survey help Sebring Middle School better meet the needs of our families. Parent Involvement at Sebring Middle School is a policy of vision, as well as change, as educational needs are identified and addressed. We invite and encourage input from both school staff and parents each year.

Parent Involvement Policy

The Sebring Middle School Parental Involvement Policy has been approved by the Sebring Middle School Advisory Committee. The policy is disseminated to all parents via the Sebring Middle School Website and within the Sebring Middle School Newsletter. In addition, the policy will be addressed and reviewed during the first parent night.