

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
Office of the Associate Superintendent
Special Projects Division
Program Monitoring Department

District Advisory Council for Compensatory Education (DAC)
Title I Parent Involvement Policy
2006-07 Review

Summary Report
May 8, 2007

Report of Programs for Review

For all the programs listed within the Title I Parent Involvement Policy, it is important to inform parents at every opportunity of programs and activities available to them. Information about the following activities should be shared at district meetings and trainings:

- School Site Council (SSC) Training
- Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) Training
- District Advisory Council (DAC) monthly meetings
- District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) monthly meetings

Information about the following parent involvement activities should also be shared at various school site meetings:

- Back-to-School Events
- Annual Title I Meeting
- Open House
- Parent workshops

I. Parent, Community and Student Engagement

This Sub-committee would like to recognize the formation of the Parent, Community and Student Engagement Branch within the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) under the Office of the Associate Superintendent. The Family Friendly Schools Initiative was implemented by this office in February 2007. It is the opinion of the Sub-committee that this program shows great promise in creating a positive climate and enhancing parent engagement.

Recommendations:

The Sub-committee will continue monitoring results from this new program.

A. Harold J. Ballard Parent Center/Parent University

It is the opinion of the Sub-committee that the Ballard Parent Center, working in conjunction with Parent University, has provided many classes and training opportunities throughout the 2006-07 school year for parents, staff, and community members. Currently, the Ballard Center and Parent University offer classes during the work day and evening for all grade levels. The classes, which are well attended by parents, receive positive feedback. Classes for Somali parents were offered for the first time this year. The Sub-committee members agreed that it is important to have a

centralized site for parent activities and classes with convenient access to freeways. A centralized meeting location is also beneficial to attendance at monthly DAC meetings, and the Sub-committee is grateful to the district for continuing to support the Ballard Parent Center.

Recommendations:

The Sub-committee recognizes the many issues surrounding middle school and high school education and suggests the addition of secondary parenting classes. This Sub-committee suggests additional funding to provide support staff, and recommends that weekend parenting classes, in addition to the current evening classes, be offered.

B. Parent Academic Liaisons (PALs)

It is the opinion of this Sub-committee that the PAL Program is working effectively and is well-received at the schools utilizing PALs. It is encouraging that two middle schools have funded PALs to increase parent communication at the secondary level. Eight schools have applied for the Nell Soto Home Visit Grant, and it is anticipated that most of these schools will be awarded the grant. SDUSD's PAL program was featured in the 2007 book *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide To Family School Partnerships*.

Recommendations:

The Sub-committee recommends that more school sites be encouraged to add a PAL to their school site plan. This would be an additional parent outreach strategy. Fewer schools are able to support a PAL due to funding limitations. However, this Sub-committee recognizes the value of the PAL program and encourages consideration of the program when funds become available.

C. Supplemental Educational Services

It is the opinion of the Sub-committee that the SDUSD has made great strides in meeting the federal requirements for implementation of this program. The district has spent its required budget and has had a more successful awareness campaign for 2006-07.

Recommendations:

1. The Sub-committee suggests that parents be provided methods for evaluating the effectiveness of individual providers.
2. This office should find ways of increasing attendance among students participating in supplemental educational services

II. Special Projects

Special Projects, which oversees Title I programs, is a newly-designated division within the Parent, Community and Student Engagement Branch. Among the division's responsibilities is the annual review of the federally-mandated Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan, which serves as a guide for each school's Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA). Additionally, the LEA Plan reflects the various programs and departments that provide parent trainings and activities within the appropriate sections of the LEA Plan.

This year saw the implementation of the annual review process that resulted in a draft revision presented to the DAC in May 2007.

Recommendations:

This sub-committee will continue to monitor timeliness of the annual review of the LEA Plan, thus resulting in a more relevant document.

A. Program Monitoring

It should be noted that the Planning and Accountability Department was reconfigured during Fall 2007, and Program Monitoring is now part of the Special Projects Division within the Parent, Community and Student Engagement Branch. It is the opinion of this Sub-committee that the Program Monitoring Department provides the necessary training on SSC requirements in order to achieve greater uniformity across the district. Attendance at trainings increased during 2006-07 due to greater coordination with other departments, which allowed for increased opportunities for training and therefore more choices for administrators and SSC members. Staff also plays an invaluable role in keeping the DAC monthly meetings informative and well-attended.

Recommendations from 2006 that were met include the development of an annual calendar of events and due dates and the addition of clerical staff. A standardized format for the school site planning process was also implemented.

Recommendations:

1. This Sub-committee suggests that this department be provided with additional certificated staffing as a preemptive support for schools in order to meet state and federal compliance requirements across the district.
2. This department should continue to encourage SSCs with ELAC authority to attend DELAC meetings and fulfill their mandated tasks.

B. Early Childhood Education

It is the opinion of the Sub-committee that this department is working effectively within the confines of its scope. A wide variety of trainings are offered to parents to support school readiness.

Recommendations:

The Sub-committee suggests making information about this department's programs and activities more available and accessible to parents.

III. School Volunteer Coordinators

It is the opinion of the Sub-committee that the School Volunteer program is valuable to parent involvement at the school site. Training is provided throughout the school year for a variety of audiences.

Recommendations:

The Sub-committee suggests more extensive promotion throughout the district of the School Volunteer Coordinator trainings. Every school is encouraged to cultivate an active Volunteer Coordinator.