

**Rippleside Elementary  
Title I Parental Involvement Plan  
8/12/15  
2015-2016 School Year**

**Mission Statement**

Our mission is to empower students to be life-long learners and citizens by maximizing community, parent, and staff involvement while developing high expectations and achievement in a safe learning environment.

**Statement of Purpose**

Rippleside Elementary School is committed to the goal of providing a quality education to every child in the district. We want to establish partnerships with parents and the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Parents will receive the state test scores at Fall Entrance Conferences.

Rippleside 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 in the district to succeed.

**Part 1: School Parent Involvement Plan Required Components**

- A. Rippleside Elementary will jointly develop/revise with parents the school parent involvement plan and distribute it to parents and make available the parent involvement plan to the local community. A Parent Advisory Council of 8 parents, 3 teachers, 1 Title Coordinator, 1 Parent Involvement/Volunteer Coordinator, 1 school board member, and 1 principal will meet to develop our School's Parental Involvement Policy. Our Parent Advisory Council will be chosen from volunteers in the school. The committee will meet the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of every month. The Title Coordinator will inform the council members by email of the meeting's agenda and provide minutes following each meeting.

The Title Coordinator's contact information is:

Shari Nordean  
Rippleside Elementary  
(218) 927-7726  
[snordean@isd1.org](mailto:snordean@isd1.org)

- B. Conduct an **annual meeting**, at a convenient time, to which all parents 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: At the annual meeting for parents, which will be held in September, parents will be given information about the Title I program in their school and inform parents of their rights. Parents will be given copies of the school's current Parental Involvement Plan, and will be offered the chance to become involved in revising the plan as needed. Parents will be encouraged to serve on either the PTO or Parent Advisory Council (or both). Parents will be sent e-mail notices about the meeting time and agenda.
- C. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; Types of Parental Involvement:

### **Community & Parent Involvement**

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their child's education. Before school starts the Rippleside offers Entrance Conferences. The parents and child will have the opportunity to meet with the child's teacher and some beginning assessments will take place, so the teacher can start the school year with data already gathered on each student. The Rippleside PTO offers many opportunities for parent involvement. Other involvement activities include: volunteering in the classroom, reading in the library, PTO, Parent Advisory Council, Title I sponsored Family Fun Nights and Catch a Star. Parents have the opportunity to sign up to volunteer during Entrance Conferences.

## **Fundraising**

The Rippleside PTO kicks off their fundraiser in September. Parents and children raise funds for the school through a catalog fundraiser. The Book Fair raises funds for the Library and the school's literacy program.

## **Family Fun Nights**

Family Fun Nights are offered throughout the months during the school year. Rippleside Elementary values both the at-home contributions and those, which take place at school and in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at a family meal are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parental involvement are needed in a school-home-community partnership that will help all our children to succeed.

- D. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school plan. The Parent Advisory Council will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. The aim will be to evaluate the schools by collecting information in a variety of ways and discussing at a Parent Advisory Council meeting. There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parental Involvement Program, and parents will be asked to help evaluate. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of this annual review. This will take place at the Parent Advisory Council Meeting held at the beginning of the school year for planning and the end of the school year to review and evaluate the plan.
  
- E. Provide parents
  - 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; and
  - 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. Information is shared on our website, through our monthly newsletters, classroom newsletters, and our local newspaper.

Information can be obtained from our school's Parent Involvement Coordinator Jenny McGuire. ([jmcguire@isd1.org](mailto:jmcguire@isd1.org))

- F. If the 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 local educational agency. Parents are encouraged to email Rippleside's Principal: Jesse Peterson; ([jpeterson@isd1.org](mailto:jpeterson@isd1.org)) or the Title I Coordinator: Shari Nordean; ([snordean@isd1.org](mailto:snordean@isd1.org)).
  
- G. Rippleside Elementary will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in Minnesota (i.e., Minnesota Parent Center, Bloomington, MN). This will be included on a monthly newsletter sent home to each family of Rippleside students.

## **Part II: Required Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement**

As a component of the school-level parent involvement plan, Rippleside 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 achievement.

~Conduct parent/teacher conferences three times a year; including Entrance Conferences in which the school-parent compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.

~Provide frequent reports to parents on their children's progress through quarterly report cards and assessment reports; and

~Provide parents with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities. Rippleside's Parent Involvement Coordinator is available during Entrance Conference to make volunteer opportunities available to parents. The Parent Involvement Coordinator also updates parents monthly on upcoming events and opportunities through the school newsletter.

## **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, Rippleside and local educational agency assisted under this part:

- a. Shall provide assistance to the parents of children served at Rippleside as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic 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; Rippleside shares the information with parents through monthly newsletters, classroom newsletters, district website,
- b. Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; Rippleside's Parent Advisory Council provides a variety of Family Fun Nights during the school year. Examples include Reading and Math Nights, Science Night, and Wellness Night. Family Fun Nights provides a chance for parents to see curriculum, use technology, learn about benchmark assessments and how to track their child's progress.
- 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; Rippleside's Parent Involvement Coordinator is available during Entrance Conference to make volunteer opportunities available to parents. The Parent Involvement Coordinator also updates parents monthly on upcoming events and opportunities through the school newsletter.
- d. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with the Home Instruction

Programs for Preschool Youngsters 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; Each year, the school will assess the needs of parents and children in this community, through a variety of measures - including questionnaires sent home to parents - so that the Title I program will be tailored to meet those needs. Workshops in parenting, early literacy, child development, and other programs will be available. Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the school newsletters. Parents may call the school office at any time to express an interest in a particular sort of workshop or to make suggestions. Aitkin Public School staff, principal, and kindergarten teachers meet with early childhood programs to ensure that the transition to elementary school is welcoming for the student and parents. The principal, title coordinator, and kindergarten teachers visit parent meetings at the preschool programs, invite parents to Kindergarten Registration, KinderCamp and discuss PTO and the Parent Advisory Council.

- 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; Communication with parents is essential in fostering a positive working relationship between school and home. Parents are encouraged to take the initiative in calling their child's teacher when they have a question or concern. Classroom teachers are encouraged to have regular home-school communications through newsletters, emails, phone calls, etc.
- f. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this as parents may request; Parent evaluation and input is requested after each Family Fun Night event. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher or Rippleside's principal as needed.
- g. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;

- 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;
- j. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- 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;
- l. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- m. May establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;
- 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 of this part, 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. Rippleside's Principal, Title I Coordinator, and Parent Involvement Coordinator will work together to make appropriate accommodations specific to each case.

**Part IV Adoption**

Rippleside Elementary's Parent Involvement Plan has been developed/revised jointly with, and agreed on with, parents as evidenced by meeting minutes.

The commitment to family involvement has been approved by the Aitkin School Board. The plan will be coordinated and promoted by the Title I Coordinator, Parent Involvement Coordinator, title staff, teachers, and administration.

Date Amended: August 26, 2015

Title I  
Coordinator: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal: \_\_\_\_\_

Parents: \_\_\_\_\_