

## School-Parent Compacts

Title I requires each school that receives Title I funds to develop jointly with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, school staff, and students will share responsibility for ensuring improved student achievement. The compact must also outline how schools and parents will work together to help Title I students achieve the high content and performance standards set by the state for all students.

This compact must do a number of things:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective environment which will enable students to meet the state standards.
2. Describe how parents will be responsible for supporting their child's learning. Examples given in the law are monitoring whether children have finished their homework and how much television children watch.
3. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents. Schools will be required to provide at least:
  - o Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least once a year, when parents and teachers will discuss the compact as it relates to an individual child's achievement.
  - o Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress [frequent is not defined].
  - o Reasonable access to staff and to classrooms to observe activities [reasonable is not defined].

### WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Title I requires that parents be involved in developing the school plan, but it does not require that parents approve the school plan. Therefore it is extremely important that the school-parent compact be a strong tool for parental involvement in the school's Title I program.
- Find out how to get involved in drafting the school-parent compact. Make sure that the school knows how important this process is. Every parent should have an opportunity to participate in the drafting of the compact.
- Make sure that the compact outlines exactly how the school must provide a "supportive and effective" environment for all students. This is key to ensuring that schools have high quality teachers, resources, and the facilities needed.
- Make sure that the compact is specific. For example, it could define how often the school must report to parents on children's progress; and "reasonable access" to staff and classrooms to observe activities.
- Make sure that these compacts will provide all parents a guarantee from the school that they will receive all of the information they need in order to make decisions about their children's education. Remember, plans, budgets, and evaluations. Etc. are public documents and must be available to your parent group if you ask.

Think about how you can support your child's education, as the compact also outlines the role of parents. However, parents and families have certain privacy with respect to their home life which should not be violated. The compact should specifically state that families' rights of privacy will not be violated. Moreover, schools and parents must work to ensure that this privacy is honored.