
AN AGREEMENT FOR SUCCESS: Title I Parent-School Compacts

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What are Compacts?

- A written document
 - Describes school's, parent's, teacher's, and student's shared responsibility
 - GOAL: High student academic achievement
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What needs to be included?

- School's** responsibility:
 - provide high quality curriculum and instruction
 - ensure supportive and effective learning environment
 - enable the children served to meet the State's student academic achievement standards
 - Parent's** responsibility:
 - support their children's learning
 - volunteer, when available
 - participate in decisions relating to the education of their children
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In Simpler Terms...

- Compacts are a "job description" that defines the "jobs" of the school staff, the parents (and sometimes the student) in order to ensure that the student receives and achieves the best possible education.
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Purpose of Compacts

- Process vs. Outcome
 - Open Communication
 - Parents can understand the school system better
 - Teachers can understand the needs of parents better
 - Students can understand their responsibilities
 - Create a "team"
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CREATING A SCHOOL'S ACTION TEAM

- Parents (required)**
 - Teachers (required)**
 - Optional:
 - Students
 - School Administrators
 - Parent Ombudsmen and School-Community Liaisons
 - Community Members
 - Businesses
 - Faith Based Organizations
 - Community Organizations
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GETTING STARTED

- NCLB Goal
 - All Students at Proficient or Advanced on the PA System of School Assessment (PSSA) by 2014
 - Issues currently facing our school
 - Issues currently facing our parents
 - Issues currently facing our community
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Goals for Educating our Children

Discussion Questions:

- Parents: What do you want for your child as they go through school?
 - Parents: What goals do you have for your child after they graduate?
 - Teachers: What do you want for your students as they go through your classroom this year?
 - Teachers: What do you want for their future?
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What Do We Expect From Each Other?

All parents and teachers want to ensure that every child is:

- Healthy
 - Safe
 - Engaged in Learning
 - Supported by Caring Adults
 - Exposed to a Challenging Curriculum (includes arts, music and other essential courses)
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* From The Whole Child www.wholechildeducation.org/

DEVELOPING YOUR COMPACT

Compacts are required to address three areas for families and the school to work together:

- Student learning and high achievement;
- Effective and frequent communication between school and home; and
- Building capacity for the family/school partnership through volunteering and training.

Student Learning and High Achievement

Suggestions for Compact:

- School's responsibility includes offering a rigorous and challenging academic program [be specific in what your school offers here]
- School agrees to provide training for parents on ways to help them help their child at home.
- Parents agree to monitor homework completion and send students to school on time and prepared to learn.
- Parents agree to support learning at home by reading with their children every night [or whatever is agreed upon at this meeting...]

Effective and Frequent Communication Between School and Home

Suggestions for Compact:

- School agrees to communicate frequently (define frequently) with families about student progress through [agreed upon methods i.e., email, phone calls, newsletters, etc.].
- Parents agree to attend at least one parent-teacher conference each year, or email teacher with questions, etc.
- Students agree to deliver all flyers and other information from school to parents/caregivers

**Building Capacity through
Volunteering and Training**

Suggestions for Compact:

- School agrees to involve parents in school governance by.....
- Teachers will train parents on these strategies to help their children do better in school...
- Parents agree to volunteer at least ____ hours a year at the school.

USING THE COMPACT

Get the Word Out!

- School Newsletter
- Weekly Lunch Menus
- Web Sites
- Email
- Listserv
- School's Voice Mail System
- Mailing
- Local Newspaper
- Community Events
- Special School Events

USING THE COMPACT

Use the Compact in All Parts of Your School Program

- Help launch programs for family involvement
- Support training for teachers and other staff to work with families
- Complement School Improvement Plans
- Help partners discuss their responsibilities in meeting the goals of the school

EVALUATING THE RESULTS

- Schools are required to review the compacts each year to determine if they are effective and to make changes, if needed
 - Parents must be involved
 - Need to more than whether it is in place
 - Need to know what's working and what's not working
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Resources

- US Department of Education
www.ed.gov
 - PA Department of Education
www.pde.state.pa.us
 - Project Appleseed (National Campaign for Public School Improvement)
www.projectappleseed.org
 - PA PIRC
www.center-school.org/pa-pirc/
 - PA SPAC
www.spac.k12.pa.us
 - National Network of Partnership Schools
www.csos.jhu.edu/P2000/
 - PA Academic Achievement Report (School's AYP status)
www.paayp.com
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Questions???

School-based Parent Ombudsmen and School
Community Liaisons
Regional Parent Ombudsmen and NCLB
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