**“Home of the “Stingers”**

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**Columbus County Schools**

**Cerro Gordo Elementary School**

**LEA Title I Parental Involvement Policy**

**2013– 2014 School Year**

The Columbus County Board of Education believes that the education of children is a cooperative effort between parents and schools. Parents are the children’s first teachers and involvement of parents improves the educational achievement of their children. We believe the involvement of Title I parents increases the effectiveness of the program and contributes significantly to the success of our children. The Columbus County Title I staff will strive to involve parents in activities throughout the school year. Our teachers and staff at Cerro Gordo Elementary operate on the following components to involve our parents and guardians.

1. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to actively participate in their child’s school program making suggestions when appropriate.
2. Cerro Gordo Elementary School trains teachers and staff to communicate effectively by sponsoring activities such as assemblies, special events and programs, and a Parent-Teacher Organization. Interim progress reports, report cards, and parent conferences are provided during each nine weeks to keep parents informed of the academic progress of their children.
3. Parents are provided access to the new NC Common Core Essential Standards curriculum and assessments aligned with the curriculum to measure student progress. Parents of Limited English Proficient students receive information in their native language when possible.
4. Parents are invited to attend an annual meeting which explains the Title I Program. We encourage parents to collaborate and formulate suggestions for the school to consider.
5. As funds are available, opportunities for parents are offered to learn ways to encourage and ensure academic success by assisting their children with learning activities at home. All meetings are offered on a flexible basis.
6. Parents are asked to sign a Parent - Student - Teacher Compact indicating their willingness to cooperate with Cerro Gordo Elementary School and support the school’s goals and efforts.
7. Parents that find the Title I program unsatisfactory may submit comments to the Columbus County Schools Title I Director for consideration.
8. Cerro Gordo Elementary School has developed a web site for parental information and a monthly newsletter to share activities to all families at our school.

It is believed that when parents and school work together and keep each other informed about the successes or concerns of the students, much greater achievement will occur.

**Cerro Gordo Elementary School**

**LEA CODE 328**

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Sections 1118 of the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) requires the involvement of parents of participating children in the design and implementation of Title I projects. The following descriptions explain the ways that Cerro Gordo Elementary School addresses the mandates.

1. Convening an annual public meeting to inform parents about Title I and their rights.

The discussion of the Title I program will be placed on the agenda of our first PTO meeting. The date and time of the meeting will be publicized by written notice, on the school marquee, in the monthly calendar, and on the Alert Now calling system. Parents will receive a Title I brochure provided by NCDPI.

1. Offering a flexible number of meetings, such as meeting at various time of the day. Parents will be notified of information meetings and to the extent possible, provided a choice of the day and time of the meeting(s).
2. Involving parents in the improvement process of the school, the parental involvement policy, and developing the school wide program goals jointly.

* Parents are a part of the School Planning Committee, PTO Officers, and Advisory Council
* Parents are notified of all meetings in advance
* Parents are encouraged to make suggestions, ask questions, participate in surveys, visit the school campus, and be involved at all levels of the school operation
* Parents are given an update on the progress of the school program on a periodic and/or as needed basis.

1. Providing timely information, such as information about Title I programs, descriptions and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the reform of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

* On-going assessments are administered to students in all grade levels

1. Providing parent/teacher/administrator conference opportunities, as requested by either party, to formulate suggestions/strategies and participate as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of the student.

* Provide opportunities for parent conferences at various times of the day to work with the parent schedules
* Hold parent, guidance, or administrative conferences as necessary

1. Providing for parent input on school wide program plans and academic concerns.

* Allow for parental feedback on newsletters sent home
* Allow for two-way communication
* Advisory Council and PTO officers are parent representatives
* Parent representative on SIT team
* Parent involvement in all Personalized Education Plans
* Parent surveys

1. Parents will be invited to join the school and students in signing a Parent – Student -Teacher Compact indicating their shared responsibility for high student achievement.

* Teachers will make an attempt to meet with parents during each grading period to inform them of student standings
* Teachers will provide open and ongoing communication with parents leading up to and after EOG testing

1. Provide parental assistance on topics such the State’s academic content standards and student academic standards, state and local assessments.

* EOG and Benchmark results are sent home with each student
* AMO results are discussed and shared at parent meetings
* Individual student reports are sent home by each student
* Report cards are sent home and parent conferences are scheduled
* Progress reports are sent home to inform parents

1. Providing materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve achievement in all content areas and to foster parental involvement.

* Math Night
* Literacy Night
* Informational newsletters sent home monthly featuring researched based strategies for parents to help their children
* Provide parents with literacy training in specific target areas

1. Educate school personnel 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, and build ties between parents and the school.

* Involve the school PTO in decision making process and share with the staff
* Provide links on the school website and facebook page for staff development and parent training

1. Integrating parent involvement programs and activities with North Carolina Pre-K. Encourage and support parents to become more fully involved om the education of their children.

* Preschool students are allowed to visit the school and classroom during the spring prior to attending school

1. Ensure that information related to school activities and parent programs, meetings and other activities are sent home in a format and language parents can understand.

* Newsletters are sent out to parents on a weekly basis (K-4)
* Monthly school calendar of schoolwide activities provided for all families
* Monthly informational newsletters with researched based information for parents to assist their children
* Kidsville Newspapers are distributed to students to share with families

1. Provide opportunities for parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

* Information will be sent home in Spanish when available
* The ESL coordinator will help maintain open lines of communication with all parents and serve as a liaison between parents and school