
By: **Delegates Kelley, Gutierrez, Patterson, Ramirez, Ross, and V. Turner**
Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2004
Assigned to: Ways and Means

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Education - Elementary and Secondary Schools - Parental Involvement**
3 **Plans**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring each local school district and each school to develop and
5 implement a certain parental involvement plan on or before a certain date;
6 establishing the requirements for each plan; requiring each school to prepare
7 certain parental involvement family kits; establishing the components of each
8 kit; requiring each school to hold a certain meeting at the beginning of each
9 school year; requiring that parents be given certain materials and certain
10 information at a certain meeting; requiring each local school district to develop
11 and implement a parental involvement grading system; providing for the
12 requirements of the grading system; requiring each school to publish a volunteer
13 resource book based on the results of a certain parent survey; providing for the
14 requirements of the volunteer resource book; requiring the principal of each
15 school to designate a certain staff member as a parent facilitator; requiring the
16 parent facilitator to organize certain staff training; requiring the State Board of
17 Education to require at least a certain number of hours of parental involvement
18 staff training as professional development each year; and generally relating to
19 the development of parental involvement plans in elementary and secondary
20 schools.

21 BY adding to
22 Article - Education
23 Section 7-115
24 Annotated Code of Maryland
25 (2001 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

26 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
27 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

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Article - Education

2 7-115.

3 (A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS
4 INDICATED.

5 (2) "KIT" MEANS THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT FAMILY KIT.

6 (3) "PARENT" INCLUDES A STUDENT'S LEGAL GUARDIAN OR RELATIVE.

7 (4) "PLAN" MEANS THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN DEVELOPED BY
8 A LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OR A SCHOOL UNDER THIS SECTION.

9 (B) (1) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2004, EACH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
10 AND EACH SCHOOL, IN COLLABORATION WITH THE PARENTS OF ITS STUDENTS,
11 SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN.

12 (2) THE PURPOSE OF THE PLAN IS TO ESTABLISH PROGRAMS AND
13 PRACTICES THAT ENHANCE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN THEIR CHILDREN'S
14 EDUCATION AND REFLECT THE SPECIFIC NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN AS STUDENTS
15 AND THE NEEDS OF THE STUDENTS' FAMILIES.

16 (3) EACH PLAN SHALL:

17 (I) APPLY TO PARENTS OF STUDENTS AT ALL GRADE LEVELS IN A
18 VARIETY OF ROLES;

19 (II) RECOGNIZE THAT COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PARENTS AND
20 SCHOOLS SHOULD BE REGULAR, TWO-WAY, AND MEANINGFUL TO BE EFFECTIVE;

21 (III) PROMOTE AND SUPPORT RESPONSIBLE PARENTING;

22 (IV) ACKNOWLEDGE AND DESCRIBE THE INTEGRAL ROLE PARENTS
23 HAVE IN ASSISTING STUDENT LEARNING;

24 (V) DEVELOP POLICIES AND PRACTICES THAT WELCOME PARENTS
25 IN THE SCHOOL LEARNING COMMUNITY;

26 (VI) SEEK PARENTAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE IN FULFILLING
27 THE SCHOOL'S ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY GOALS;

28 (VII) RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY RESOURCES THAT STRENGTHEN
29 STUDENT LEARNING, SCHOOL PROGRAMS, AND FAMILY PRACTICES; AND

30 (VIII) REQUIRE REGULAR PUBLICATION OF AN UPDATED SCHOOL
31 ACTIVITY LIST.

32 (C) (1) EACH SCHOOL SHALL PREPARE AGE AND GRADE APPROPRIATE
33 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT FAMILY KITS.

1 (2) EACH KIT SHALL INCLUDE:

2 (I) A COPY OF THE SCHOOL'S PLAN;

3 (II) A DESCRIPTION OF THE RECOMMENDED ROLE OF THE PARENT,
4 STUDENT, TEACHER, AND SCHOOL IN A STUDENT'S SCHOOL CAREER;

5 (III) A LIST AND DESCRIPTION OF THE WAYS FOR PARENTS TO
6 BECOME INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL AND THEIR STUDENT'S EDUCATION;

7 (IV) A LIST OF ACTIVITIES PLANNED THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL
8 YEAR THAT ENCOURAGE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT;

9 (V) A DESCRIPTION OF THE SYSTEM BY WHICH PARENTS AND
10 TEACHERS CAN COMMUNICATE IN A REGULAR, TWO-WAY, AND MEANINGFUL
11 MANNER WITH EACH OTHER AND THE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL;

12 (VI) A SURVEY FOR PARENTS THAT ASSESSES EACH PARENT'S
13 INTEREST IN VARIOUS VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES SCHEDULED FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR
14 AND DETERMINES HOW FREQUENTLY A PARENT VOLUNTEER WOULD LIKE TO
15 PARTICIPATE, INCLUDING THE OPTION OF JUST ONE TIME PER YEAR;

16 (VII) A DESCRIPTION OF AVAILABLE SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY
17 RESOURCES, INCLUDING THE SCHOOL'S PARENT CENTER; AND

18 (VIII) A WRITTEN DESCRIPTION OF THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
19 GRADING SYSTEM.

20 (D) (1) AT THE BEGINNING OF EACH SCHOOL YEAR, THE SCHOOL SHALL
21 HOLD A "PARENTS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE" EVENING.

22 (2) AT THE MEETING, PARENTS SHALL BE GIVEN:

23 (I) A REPORT ON THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL;

24 (II) AN OVERVIEW OF THE SCHOOL YEAR, INCLUDING:

25 1. WHAT STUDENTS WILL BE LEARNING;

26 2. HOW STUDENTS WILL BE ASSESSED;

27 3. WHAT PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT FOR THEIR STUDENT'S
28 EDUCATION; AND

29 4. HOW PARENTS CAN ASSIST AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN
30 THEIR STUDENT'S EDUCATION;

31 (III) A KIT FOR EACH STUDENT IN THE SCHOOL;

1 (IV) A COPY OF THE SCHOOL'S PROCESS FOR RESOLVING PARENTAL
2 CONCERNS INCLUDING HOW TO DEFINE A PROBLEM AND WHOM TO APPROACH AND
3 THE APPROPRIATE CONTACT INFORMATION; AND

4 (V) AN EXPLANATION OF THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT GRADING
5 SYSTEM.

6 (E) (1) EACH LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SHALL DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A
7 PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT GRADING SYSTEM.

8 (2) THE SYSTEM SHALL INCLUDE:

9 (I) A LIST OF THE ACTIVITIES THAT PARENTS WERE INVITED TO
10 PARTICIPATE IN THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL YEAR;

11 (II) THE NUMBER, AGE, AND GRADE OF THE STUDENTS IN THE
12 DISTRICT FOR EACH PARENT;

13 (III) A METHODOLOGY FOR DETERMINING HOW THE PARENTS'
14 INVOLVEMENT WILL BE EVALUATED;

15 (IV) A DESCRIPTION OF A SCHOOL'S REQUIREMENTS REGARDING
16 COLLECTION OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT DATA AND REPORTING OF DATA TO THE
17 LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT;

18 (V) NOTICE OF THE MANNER BY WHICH PARENTS WILL BE
19 NOTIFIED OF THE GRADE; AND

20 (VI) ANY OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE
21 DETERMINATION OR ISSUANCE OF THE GRADE.

22 (F) (1) USING THE RESULTS OF THE PARENT SURVEY REQUIRED UNDER
23 SUBSECTION (C) OF THIS SECTION, EACH SCHOOL SHALL PUBLISH A VOLUNTEER
24 RESOURCE BOOK.

25 (2) THE VOLUNTEER RESOURCE BOOK SHALL:

26 (I) LIST THE INTERESTS AND AVAILABILITY OF PARENT
27 VOLUNTEERS; AND

28 (II) BE USED BY SCHOOL STAFF ONLY.

29 (G) (1) THE PRINCIPAL OF EACH SCHOOL SHALL DESIGNATE ONE STAFF
30 MEMBER AS A PARENT FACILITATOR.

31 (2) THE PARENT FACILITATOR SHALL ORGANIZE STAFF TRAINING THAT
32 ENHANCES UNDERSTANDING OF:

33 (I) EFFECTIVE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES; AND

1 (II) THE IMPORTANCE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LEADERSHIP IN
2 SETTING EXPECTATIONS AND CREATING A CLIMATE CONDUCIVE TO PARENTAL
3 PARTICIPATION.

4 (3) THE STATE BOARD SHALL REQUIRE AT LEAST 2 HOURS OF PARENTAL
5 INVOLVEMENT STAFF TRAINING AS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EACH YEAR.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take
7 effect July 1, 2004.