

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Board of Education believes that positive parent and family engagement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. Parent and family engagement may take place either in the classroom or during extra-curricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parent and family engagement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework "compacts" between parents, family members, and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home/school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parent and family engagement.

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Consistent with the parent and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A, the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parent and family engagement policies, as further required by the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

For purposes of this policy, parent and family engagement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities.

At a minimum, parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents and family members:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- Are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

The federal definition of the term parents refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

School level Title I parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members, including those who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children.

As further required by federal law, parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the district's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forward with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents and family members will participate in the process for developing either a comprehensive or targeted "support and improvement plan" when the school their child attends is identified by the State as needing this plan.

Parent and family member participation in development of Title I plan

The Board, along with its Superintendent of Schools and other appropriate district staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent and family member involvement in the development of the Title I plan:

The Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, principal(s) of Title I school(s), and Title I staff will meet with parents and family members to develop a plan to involve parents. This parent and family engagement plan will be reviewed annually and updated as needed. This plan will be reviewed with impacted parents and family members at flexible times and in highly accessible places.

Development of school level parent and family engagement plans

The Superintendent of Schools will ensure that all district schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. As appropriate to meet individual local needs, the Superintendent or designee will hold meetings at flexible times, provide information through quarterly newsletters and the District website, engage in community outreach events, and survey parents by phone, mail, and/or email.

Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parent and family engagement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content, challenging academic standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will discuss these topics at:

- 1) **Open Houses**

2) Student Conferences

3) Conferences by Parent Requests

4) Presentations at PTSA and/or Shared Decision Making meetings

2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their child's academic achievement such as literacy training and using technology. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I School(s) will provide such things as:

1) Parent training in reading with students

2.) Parent training on using technology as applicable

3.) Public library partnership to encourage students, parents, and families to make use of the public library

4.) Community outreach

5.) Parent programs focused on literacy

6.) Videos posted to the school website and social media related to these topics

3. Educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contribution and on 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 schools.

To achieve this objective, the Title I school(s) will:

- Provide professional development and training to its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff on the benefits of parent and family engagement.
- Provide information to staff and community members to inform stakeholders about the impact living in poverty has on students and families.

4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Coordination of parent and family engagement strategies

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements with parent strategies adopted in connection with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs. It will do this by offering opportunities for any of these programs applicable to our schools for exposure and transition.

Review of parent and family engagement policy

The Board, along with its Superintendent of Schools and other appropriate staff will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revisions of parent and family engagement policies necessary for more effective involvement. To facilitate this review, the district will ensure all informational materials are accessible to parents in their preferred language.

Ref:

[20 USC §§6318\(a\)\(2\); 7801\(38\)](#), Every Student Succeeds Act (§11116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act)

U.S. Department of Education, *Parental Involvement, Title I, Part A, Non-Regulatory Guidance*, April 23, 2004