

TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Background

All Local Education Agencies (LEA) receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act, 20 U.S.C. § 6318, (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA. The ESSA states that the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the LEA plan (Consolidated Application and Plan), and distributed to parents of participating children in a format and language that parents can understand. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

Objective

The Mt. Lebanon School District recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by parents, families, schools and the community. Creating positive home, school and community partnerships is essential to carrying out this shared responsibility. It is the objective of this policy to set forth the expectations for parental and family engagement, the commitment of the District to such engagement, and the specific implementation standards of how such parental and family engagement under Title I will be achieved.

Policy

It is the policy of the Board of School Directors that the District and parents and family members of students participating in Title I programs jointly develop and agree upon a written parental involvement policy. In developing and implementing this policy, the District will:

1. Involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Consolidated Application and Plan through the involvement of a District Title I Parent Advisory Committee and yearly needs assessment survey. Each year the District Title I Parent and Family Advisory Committee will review this policy and other related documents to ensure their viability as well as make suggestions for improvement.
2. Involve parents and family members in the development of support and improvement plans under paragraph (1) and (2) of 20 U.S.C. § 6311(d).
3. Engage with parents and family members in the process of reviewing the components of the Title I program and data on achievement and improvement at the school and district level through the Parent and Family Advisory Committee, annual meeting and survey.
4. Provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance including parent/teacher conferences, training and workshops, and informational materials through professional development, administrative support and consultation. The District may also provide meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

5. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other Federal, State and local laws and programs.
6. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving academic quality of the schools served under this policy. Such evaluation will include identification of:
 - Barriers to greater participation by parents, particularly those parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, of limited English proficiency or literacy, or of any racial or ethnic minority background.
 - Needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
7. Use the findings of the above-described evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, this policy.
8. Develop strategies for involving parents and family members in school level activities, through school level advisory committees comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs of the school population for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. These activities will include workshops and training, conferences, and the development of a school-parent compact.
9. Incorporate this policy into the District's Title I Plan and evaluate this policy annually, with parental involvement.

In addition, the District will:

1. Hold an annual meeting of parents and family members of participating Title I students to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I Program and the right of parents to be involved.
2. Give parents and family members the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation, and reflection of the Title I Program. Parents and family members shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs.
3. In addition to the required annual meeting, hold additional parent/guardian meetings at various times of the day and evening. If sufficient, Title I funding may be used to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through payment of transportation and child care costs.
4. Provide parents of participating children:
 - Information about programs provided under Title I.
 - Description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
 - Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - Opportunities to submit parent/guardian comments about the program to the District and or building level.

5. Provide opportunities for parents and family members to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress.
6. Give parents and family members guidance as to how they can assist at home in the education of their child.
7. Develop with parents and family members of students served in the program a School-Parent and Family Compact outlining the manner in which parents and family members, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The school-parent compact shall:
 - Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the district's academic standards.
 - Indicate the ways in which parents and family members will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance and homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time.
 - Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents/guardians, and reasonable access to staff.

Administration Responsibilities

It shall be the responsibility of the administration to develop the procedures necessary to implement this policy and otherwise comply with the ESSA.

Communication

This policy shall be communicated to all school district personnel, parents, guardians, PTAs, and the general public on an annual basis through newsletters, open houses, and through other communications sent home to parents.

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