

## **Instruction**

### **Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Students Eligible for Title I Programs**

In accordance with Section 1010 of the Every Student Succeeds Act ("ESSA") Public Law 114-95, it is the policy of the Stonington Board of Education (Board) to provide parents and family members of students participating in the District's Title I programs substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children within these programs. To facilitate parental participation, the Board encourages parents and family members of eligible students who receive Title I funded services, to be involved in regular meetings, communications, and activities that will inform them about the district's Title I programs, to participate in the improvement of such programs and to help improve their child's progress within these programs.

This policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon by, parents of children eligible for Title I programs. The District shall distribute this written Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents of eligible students in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy shall be made available to the public and updated periodically, as necessary to carry out the requirements of parental involvement under Section 1010 of ESSA.

The Board shall, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members of students eligible for Title I programming, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in order to assess its effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools receiving Title I funds, in involving parents in the improvement of the Title I programs and to identify barriers to greater parent participation in Title I program activities.

The finding of such evaluation shall be used by the Board to design evidence-based strategies to improve parental involvement and if necessary, to revise this policy. The annual evaluation shall address barriers to parental participation in Title I program activities, needs of parents and family members in assisting their children and strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Each year, each District school with a Title I program shall also conduct a meeting, at a convenient time, to involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of programs funded by Title I. All parents of eligible children must be invited and encouraged to attend. At this meeting, parents shall be given a description and explanation of the Title I programs, the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used, the proficiency levels students are expected to meet and information regarding the importance of parental involvement.

In addition to the required annual meeting, and if requested by parents, Title I schools within the District shall offer opportunities for regular meetings at flexible times of the day in order to allow parents to formulate suggestions for the Board's Title I programs and their application to their child(ren)'s programs; and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to the education of their children.

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Parents will be given opportunities to participate in the joint development of the District's Title I plan, as required by Section 1006 of ESSA, and in the process of any school review and improvement in accordance with the State's plan (Section 1111 of ESSA). At any time, if a parent is dissatisfied with a school's Title I program, he/she shall have the opportunity to submit comments for review at the district level.

The Board will provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student and academic achievement and school performance. Parental involvement in Title I programs shall be coordinated and integrated with parental and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible, under other federal, state, local and district programs.

In order to build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, the Board shall:

1. provide assistance to parents of students eligible for Title I programs in understanding topics related to their child's progress, such as explanation of state academic standards and assessment tools, the requirements under Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy);
3. educate teachers, staff and administrators with the assistance of parents, about how to better communicate and work with parents;
4. ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to participating parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
5. provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request; and
6. inform parents and parental organizations of the existence and purpose of parent resource centers within the State; and
7. coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, conduct other activities to encourage and support parental participation.

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**School-Parent Compact**

This policy further requires that each school involved in Title I programs shall jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's challenging high standards. The school-parent compact shall:

1. describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students eligible to receive Title I services to meet the State's student academic achievement standards;
2. indicate the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extra-curricular time;
3. address the importance of ongoing teacher-parent communication through parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents, reasonable access to school staff, and opportunities to volunteer, participate in and observe their child's classroom activities; and
4. ensure regular, two-way and meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language understandable to family members.

The Board authorizes the Superintendent, or his/her designee, to develop a school-parent compact and other procedures such as those relating to meetings, parent communication and parental involvement activities, as he/she deems necessary in order to ensure compliance with this policy.

Information about parental involvement and actions taken to improve parental involvement shall be included, as required, in the strategic school profile submitted annually by the Superintendent to the Board of Education and the Commissioner of Education. Such actions to improve parental involvement may include methods used to engage parents in the planning and improvement of school programs and to increase support to parents' efforts at home to assist their children on learning activities.

(cf. 1110.1 - Parent Involvement)

(cf. 6161.3 - Comparability of Services)

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Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes  
10-220(c) Duties of boards of education  
Improving America's Schools Act, P.L. No. 103-382, Sec. 1112 Local Education Agency Plans.  
20 U.S.C. §6318, as amended by Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 14-95 §1010 (2015)  
20 U.S.C. §7801 - Definitions

Policy adopted: November 17, 2020

STONINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Stonington, Connecticut