



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (district-wide parent and family engagement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations of parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education.

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with *Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of *Section 1116 of the ESSA*, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with *Section 1116 of the ESSA*.
3. The school district will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under *Section 1112 of the ESSA*.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and with migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under *Section 1111 of the ESSA* in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents and family members understand.



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

5. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under *Section 1112 of the ESSA*, is not satisfactory to the parents and family members of participating children, the school district will submit any comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
6. The school district will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
7. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition of parent and family engagement.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- A. that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- B. that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- C. that parents and family members 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;
- D. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARENTAL/FAMILY INVOLVEMENT POLICY

THE FOLLOWING IS A DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT OR ACCOMPLISH EACH OF THE FOLLOWING COMPONENTS UNDER SECTION 116, ESSA.

- 1. HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under *Section 1116, ESSA*:
 - A.** District Title I Parent and Family Advisory Committee composed of parents and family members from each school in the district will develop, review, and revise the district wide parent and family engagement plan each year.
 - B.** The Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be presented to each school's P16 Council for review and comment.
 - C.** The Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be posted to the district's website for public review and comment.
- 2. HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** will involve parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement under *Section 1116, ESSA* through PTA/PTO/PTSA meetings, Title I meetings, P16 Family/Community Council meetings and other school functions.
- 3. HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - A.** District oversight and leadership
 - B.** Maintain and support with appropriate information and training for parent/family/community members volunteer opportunities
 - C.** Assist in the development of parent and family members leadership through PTA/PTO/PTSA and other recognized groups
 - D.** Identify and publicize promising programs and practices related to parent and family engagement



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

4. **HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with family engagement strategies under other programs such as: PRVO Head Start, Hattiesburg Early Learning Collaborative (HELCO), public preschool, local daycare and childcare centers, and Hattiesburg EXCEL by 5 through ongoing collaboration with the agencies working with the programs.

5. **HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of families) its parent and family engagement policies.
 - A. **THE DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS** will provide surveys to all parents, family and community members on an annual basis to obtain feedback on the content and effectiveness of parent and family engagement in improving the quality of the schools. The data will be analyzed by the Title I Parent and Family Advisory Committee (Superintendent's Advisory Council) and any potential changes to programming will be determined.

 - B. **DATA** will be collected on each parent and family function held. The data will include the number in attendance, topics/program offered, evaluation feedback, etc. The data will be collected by the designees at each school site and at the district level.

6. **HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** will build the schools' and families' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents/families and to support a partnership among the school and involved parents, family members, and the community to improve student academic achievement.



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS WILL BUILD PARENT/FAMILY CAPACITY TO PROMOTE STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS THROUGH THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED AND OUTLINED:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents and families of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:
- the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators:
- B. The school district will support and expect the local schools to develop activities and materials that provide for effective two-way communication between families and the school on local school policies and individual student progress.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, support and encourage family volunteer opportunities.
- D. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement.
- E. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to implement and coordinate family programs and build ties between families and schools.
- F. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family programs and activities with PRVO Head Start, EXCEL by 5, public preschool, local childcare centers, and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as family engagement centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- G. The school district will take the necessary actions to ensure that information related to the school and family programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand.



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

- H.** In order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children’s education, the school district will arrange school meetings at a variety of times, and/or the school district will conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, and parents/family members who are unable to attend those conferences at school. The school district also utilizes social media (Website, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, etc.) to advise and inform families.
- I.** The school district will establish a district-wide parent and family advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- J.** The school district will expect each school in the district receiving Title I funds to jointly develop with parents/family members a “School-Parent Compact” outlining the manner in which family members, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state 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 children in the Title I program to meet the state’s academic standards;
 - Indicate the ways in which each parent/family member will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child’s education and positive use of extracurricular time;
 - Indicate the ways in which each student will be responsible for his/her own learning, such as attendance, on-task behavior, completing classwork and homework, and following rules; and
 - Address the importance of parent/family-teacher communication on an on-going basis, with at a minimum, parent/family-teacher conference, frequent reports to parents/family members, and reasonable access to staff.
- K.** The school district will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under *Section 1116 ESSA* as parents/family/community members may request.

Reference School Board Policy LA/LAA/LC



HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

ADOPTION

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the minutes of the Title I Parent and Family Planning Meeting.

This policy was reviewed, revised, updated, and adopted by **HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS** on August 10, 2021, and will be in effect for the period of the school year **2021-2022**.

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS will make this policy available to all parents/families of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 15, 2021.