

GATEWAY REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

TITLE I PARENT/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

2021-2022

The Gateway Regional School District, in consultation with teachers, principals, and parents of participating children, has developed and agreed upon this parent engagement policy. This policy shall be incorporated into the Gateway Regional School District application for programs funded under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA).

The Gateway Regional School District welcomes the participation of parents in support of student learning and recognizes that parental engagement is key to student success. To that end, Gateway administrators and staff will:

- 1) Involve families of students in our Title I school(s) in program planning, evaluation and improvement.** Feedback from parents/guardians will be sought regularly throughout the school year, via surveys, phone interviews, and convening an annual meeting of Title I parents for discussion.
- 2) Title I and school administrators/staff will work together to plan and implement effective family engagement activities.** Staff will use the results of periodic surveys, interactions with parents, and the annual family meeting to inform new strategies to engage families and meet the needs of their children.
- 3) Coordinate and integrate Title I family engagement strategies with other efforts throughout the district.** Title I staff will work with staff from other school and community programs to share best practices on family engagement.
- 4) Conduct an annual evaluation with families.** An annual evaluation will be conducted with families of students in the Title I school(s), to discern ways to improve engaging families including identifying and addressing barriers to engagement.
- 5) Involve families in the activities of Title I schools.** Title I families will be encouraged and supported in fully participating in the life of their child's school, including the annual family literacy night, parent conferences, open houses, student performances, PTO meetings and activities such as, Bingo for Books, vocabulary parade, guest read alouds, literacy game make and take, etc.*

*Due to the Covid-19 pandemic the activities during the 2021-2022 school year will be impacted by the DESE and state guidelines for schools regarding large group gatherings, social distancing, etc. Every effort will be made to conduct meetings virtually when possible.

It is the policy of the Gateway Regional School District to involve families in the activities that follow:

1. **Convene an annual meeting**, at a convenient time, to which all parents shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this grant and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved;
2. **Offer a flexible number of meetings**, in a manner that reduces barriers for family participation;
3. **Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this grant**, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school family engagement policy;
4. **Provide families of participating children-**
 - a. Timely information about programs under Title I provided to parents before children begin the program;
 - b. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet; and
 - c. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as is feasible.

Parent's Right-to-Know

Families of students attending Title I schools in the Gateway Regional School District may request, and will receive, information about the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers, including whether the teacher has met state qualification and licensing criteria for their grade level, subject area, and field of discipline. Parents may also request whether a teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status (and a waiver of state licensing requirements), and whether the child is being served by a paraprofessional (and, if so, their qualifications).

Families shall receive timely notice if their child has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet state licensing requirements.

Gateway's Title I school(s) will also provide information on the child's level of achievement and academic growth.

School-Parent Compact

Each school served under Title I will develop with families a school-parent compact for all children served under Title I. The school parent compact will:

1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment. Students served under Title I are expected to meet the state's academic standards. Families are responsible for supporting their child's learning such as: monitoring attendance, homework, television watching, and gaming; fostering reading at home; volunteering in their child's classroom, if possible; and participating in decisions relating to their child's education.

2. Address the importance of communication between Title I teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through:

- a. Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the child's progress;
- b. Regular reports to parents on their children's progress and;
- c. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

Anyone wishing to learn more about Title I and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 may visit

<http://www.everystudentsucceedsact.org/title-i-improving-basic-school-programs-operated-by-state-and-local-educational-agencies/>

Any families who have questions on these, or any other Title I policies are encouraged to contact Darlene Rehor, Title I Director (413.685.1363 or drehor@grsd.org). Your feedback and input are welcome and important!