



Elizabethton City Schools District Parent & Family Engagement Plan 2022-23

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Elizabethton City Schools receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement specific parent and family engagement activities.

Elizabethton City Schools agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- 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(b) of the ESSA and include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- 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 families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:
 - Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
 - (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
 - (C) families 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; and
 - (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Elizabethton City Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

The ECS District Improvement Plan (DIP) team is involved in the development of our district parent and family engagement plan. The DIP team, comprised of administration, teachers, and parent representatives, meets annually to discuss, and provide input for school improvement and parent and family engagement planning based on identified needs, data analysis, input from families, and results from annual surveys. Cultural, economic, language, and demographics will be given attention in planning family engagement events and activities. Additionally, family input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our website for families to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We distribute an annual survey to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Families can also give feedback during several meetings and activities during the school year.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Elizabethton City Schools will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

ECS provides support to our Title I schools through our district family engagement liaison who works directly with the parent involvement coordinators at each school. The family engagement liaison consults with school coordinators in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. ECS also provides videos, Tuffy PEP Talks, that highlight curriculum, programs, and resources for parents to help their children succeed in school. Our Family Engagement webpage is updated regularly and includes the PEP videos, family resources, and links to local community organizations that assist families with children.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Elizabethton City Schools will take the following actions to 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 its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the 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. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

ECS will conduct an annual evaluation to help us identify the needs of all our students' parents and family members. Feedback from parent involvement activities, teachers, and parent surveys will enable us to revise plans and activities and better support our students with more effective family engagement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Elizabethton City Schools 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 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

ECS receives more than \$500,000 in Title 1 Part A funds and does set back the required 1% to be provided to the Title I schools for Parent Involvement. During the Title I annual meeting principals shall share budget information pertaining to Title I funds that are received and shall request input regarding the use of these funds from parents (in writing). The principal can then convene with the Parent Involvement Committee and discuss the recommendations and determine the best use of funds and whether the recommendations are allowable expenditures. Lastly, it will be determined if the use for the funding is supplementing or supplanting.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Elizabethton City Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

The ECS staff includes a district family engagement liaison who consults with the school parent involvement coordinators to ensure we offer quality parent and family engagement programs and activities for our district community. Our programs and activities are designed to assist parents in participating in their child's education. Resources are offered to engage families in helping their children succeed in school. We provide Tuffy PEP talk videos for parents to help them transition into elementary, middle, and high school. The videos provide helpful tips for parents on preparation and registration as well as suggestions on how to help their child transition into each school setting.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Elizabethton City Schools will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic 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.

Examples of how ECS will build the capacity of parents and family members:

- Title I Annual Meetings at each school
- Grade-level specific parent meetings for school transitions
- Parent Involvement events to develop shared partnerships for student learning
- Tuffy PEP Talks to assist parents with developing their child's learning at home
- Workshops specifically designed to target communication with parents
- District Newsletters
- School Newsletters
- Board Policies
- Phone calls and messaging apps

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Elizabethton City Schools will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on the value and utility of contributions of families, and on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and schools by:

- Involving families in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Providing necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Training families to enhance the involvement of other families.
- Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting virtual conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with families who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement.
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities.

Examples of how ECS will build the capacity of school staff:

- Annual review of Title I funds and resources by principals and/or parent involvement coordinators
- Review of family engagement surveys to improve parent involvement effectiveness and participation
- Focus on school transitions and prepare students and parents for ease of transitioning into grades K and 6.
- Faculty discussions on best practices for parent involvement and family engagement
- Plan Parent Involvement events that develop shared partnerships for student learning
- Faculty participation in Tuffy PEP Talks to assist parents with developing their child's learning at home
- Faculty and staff workshops specifically designed to target communication with parents
- New Teacher Induction training on building relationships with parents
- Build partnerships with local agencies, businesses, and churches to develop support systems for family engagement events
- Utilize our Coordinated School Health Director and School Social Worker to educate school staff on community resources and best practices for working with families
- Board Policies