

Blount County Parent and Family Engagement Policy

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents 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 of participating children.

Parent/Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- a) That parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- b) That parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- c) That parents and 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) That other activities are carried out that will build the capacity of all parents and families.*

THE BLOUNT COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT WILL:

- Involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d) of ESSA.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs that encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- Provide timely notice if a student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.
- Ensure parents are informed of their right to request (and receive) information regarding the professional qualifications of their student's classroom teachers.
- Conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the LEA Parent Engagement Policy and Plan.
- Educate teachers, instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school.
- Provide assistance, materials, and/or training to parents and families of participating Title I children in understanding such topics as the challenging state academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve their achievement.
- Use technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
- To the extent feasible and appropriate, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a language such parents understand.

Blount County Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Revised and adopted for use in 2023-2024

The Blount County School District believes greater academic growth occurs when there is a partnership between school, families and the community. Such a partnership means a belief in and commitment to significant educational goals for every student.

The Blount County School District will assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement through the following actions:

- Facilitating Parent Advisory Council meetings twice yearly, to oversee the planning and implementation of the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- Conducting an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the family engagement policy and plan using parent survey results and input from parent advisory council members
- Distributing to all parents the Blount County Student Handbook which includes the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan, as well as Parents Right to Know information
- Posting the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan on the Blount County Schools Parent Engagement web page
- Providing a presentation for each school's annual meeting to discuss items indicated in section 1116 of the ESSA
- Assisting Title I, Part A schools in developing a Parent and Family Engagement Plan and School-Home Compact
- Supplying informational resources for the Parent Resource Corner at each Title I school
- Providing information regarding opportunities for parent involvement in a language parents can understand
- Serving on school advisory committees, if requested
- Providing parent training sessions for parents, as requested or needed
- Providing materials for schools to use in parent trainings, as requested or needed

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan has been development jointly with, and agreed on by, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A, programs, as evidenced by the minutes from the Spring Parent Advisory Council meetings held on April 13 and 14, 2023. Inclusion in the Parent-Student Handbook ensures distribution of this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.