

Title I School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Taft Elementary

[April, 2022-23]

2.0 With approval from the local governing board, Taft has jointly developed with, and distributed to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed upon by such parents, and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. (EC Section 11503; 20 United States Code [U.S.C.] Section [§] 6318[b][1-4) Input from our parent organizations, as well as from our staff, was collected to create the policy.

2.1 Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

The school-level parent and family engagement policy shall describe the means for how Taft Elementary school shall carry out the following requirements: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[b][1])

- a) The school convenes an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited to attend and encouraged to attend, to inform parents and family members of their school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements, and the right of the parents to be involved. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[c][1]) This information is presented and discussed at ELAC, SSC and Back to School Night.
- b) The school offers a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[c][2]) We took an informal survey of our parents to see what time best suits their needs. We provide activities and resources to families who bring small children with them to the meetings.
- c) The school involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[c][3]) All programs are reviewed with the ELAC and SCC each year when updated.
- d) The school provides parents of participating children with the following:
 - i. Timely information about the Title I program. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[c][4][A]) Families are notified in a community message, on the school website, as well as at SCC and ELAC.
 - ii. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards. (20 U.S.C. §

6318[c][4][B])

- iii. 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 practicably possible. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[c][4][C]) The principal, and staff, are regularly available to our community to meet and discuss and questions or concerns relevant to our students.

- e) If the schoolwide program (SWP) plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school submits any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency (LEA). (20 U.S.C. § 6318[c][5])

2.2 Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under Title I, Part A shall carry out the following requirements: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e])

- a) The school provides assistance to parents of children served by the school or LEA, as appropriate, 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 a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e][1]) The principal, or staff, will review these processes with families as needed.

- b) The school provides materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e][2]) Staff will send home additional support resources for parents to help them help their student with achievement. We offer after school programs for students who need additional support as well.

- c) The school educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and 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. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e][3]) Our community aide has a wealth of knowledge about our families and supports the teacher in communicating with our community. She is available for parents as well.

- d) The school, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinates and integrates parent involvement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully

participating in the education of their children. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e][4])
Taft will provide information sessions for parents at Back to School Night regarding curriculum used in each classroom / grade level. The standards will be covered as well. Our parent resource center is available with our Community Schools Lead.

- e) The school ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e][5])

All notifications will be posted out front of the school, will be sent home in a communication phone call or email and will be posted on social media. We send home all information in both English and Spanish.

- f) The school provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[e][14])
Our Community Aide and Community Schools Lead are available all day to support parents with whatever they need. We offer interpretation for any parent who needs language support.

2.3 Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of Title I, Part A, Taft Elementary, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA (20 U.S.C. § 6311), as amended by ESSA, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[f]) All communication goes out in English and Spanish. Interpreters are on campus all day.

2.4 School-Parent Compact

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school served under this part shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school 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 high standards. The school-parent compact shall carry out the following requirements: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d])

- a) Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I, Part A to meet the challenging state academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d][1])

- b) Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, the following: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d][2])
1. Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d][2][A]) All teachers meet with parents in the fall for parent teacher conferences and review the compact at that time.
 2. Frequent reports to parents on their children's progress. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d][2][B]) Progress reports and report cards each get reported 3 times per year.
 3. Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d][2][C]) Parents can schedule appointments with teachers at any time. We have community events throughout the year that parents can participate in.
 4. Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[d][2][D]) All home school communication is available in English and Spanish. Weekly messages go home and parents can reach our staff in various ways.

**It may be helpful to include the parent and family engagement policy review in the annual review of the School Plan for Student Achievement.*

***The policy must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and family members and the school. If the school has a process in place for involving parents and family members in planning and designing the school's programs, the school may use that process if it includes adequate representation of parents and family members of children receiving Title I, Part A services.*