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POLICY

Section: Program
2415.50. TITLE I – SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
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2415.50 TITLE I – SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT (M)

A. District Expectations

1. In accordance with the requirements of Title I, Section 1116(a)(2), ESEA, the Board of Education agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

a. The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

b. The school district will work with its schools to ensure the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the Title I, Part A requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

c. The school district will incorporate this School Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its district plan.

d. 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 of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

e. If the school district plan for Title I, Part A funds is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan upon request by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).

f. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than ninety percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. (Only applicable for districts with Title I, Part A allocations greater than $500,000.)

g. 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:

(1) "Parent and 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 play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(b) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(c) That parents 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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

h. The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in New Jersey.

B. School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Required Components

1. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent and family engagement plan:

a. In an annual distribution, the Parental Involvement Policy will be distributed to parents of Title I students requesting input into the development of the policy and parental involvement plan.

b. Convene an annual meeting, to which all parents shall be invited to attend, to inform and involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.

c. Each school will convene regular school site council meetings, to which all parents shall be invited to attend, to inform and involve parents in the process of school review and improvement.

2. The school will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirements of this part and the right of the parents to be involved: The annual meeting will be held in coordination with the back to school open house or Fall conference schedule.

3. The school will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, Part A, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement: Arranging for virtual access to meetings upon request as well as scheduling 2 school site council meetings a year during the 8am-4pm timeframe will allow accommodation of various schedules for participants.

4. The school will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

a. Title I team meetings will take place quarterly.

b. Parent meetings to provide technical support, and ELA and MAth literacies will take place annually.

c. Translation services will be provided to provide support to ELL families.

5. The school will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

a. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

(1) The challenging, state academic standards;

(2) The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;

(3) The requirements of Title I, Part A;

(4) How to monitor their child's progress; and

(5) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

(a) Annual ELL Family Workshop

(b) Pre- School Parent Workshop

(c) Special Education Parent Workshop

6. The school will provide parents of participating children, 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 practically possible.

a. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by:

(1) Providing a technical assistance portal for families to support learning platform help.

(2) Providing access to computers and training in the use of the Genesis Student information system, at back to school nights and upon request throughout the year.

(3) Providing computer access at the Central office or at the schools for families upon request.

b. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, 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 to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

(1) Annual training will be provided on parent involvement

c. The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

(1) Holding an Annual Pre-School Orientation

(2) Maintaining a Pre School Pupil Assistance Committee

(3) Holding an Annual Early Childhood Resource Fair

d. The school will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

(1) Opportunities including workshops, events, and Parent Involvement programs will be shared with parents via email, school websites, social media, and Remind messaging in English and Spanish.

7. The school will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies under the following programs: [Such as: Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and state-operated preschool programs], by:

a. Coordinating with The Pre School Pupil Assistance Committee

b. Coordinating with The Parent Teacher Organization

c. Coordinating with community partners

8. The school will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents 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 parents) its parent and family engagement policies:

a. The School Planning Committee will conduct an annual parent involvement survey of families

b. The School Planning Committee will include parent participation and conduct a minimum of three meetings a year to discuss data, root cause analysis, and progress towards Annual School Plan Smart Goals.

c. Root Cause analysis discussions will include the identification of barriers to greater parent participation as well as the identification of evidenced based interventions to resolve barriers.

9. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

a. Parent members will be invited to the Annual School Wide planning committees.

b. Parents will be invited to attend School Site Council Meetings

c. Information about meetings, programs, surveys, and committees will be shared via email and Remind messaging with families.

10. If the Annual School Plan (school-wide program plan) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the Annual School Plan (ASP) when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency:

a. The plan will then return to the Annual School Plan Committee for discussion and review of data relevant to concerns for a root cause analysis and response from the School Planning Team.

C. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

1. As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school 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:

a. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State’s student academic achievement standards

b. Hold parent-teacher conferences and provide reasonable access to staff during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child’s achievement.

c. Involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school’s parental involvement policy, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way.

D. Discretionary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

1. The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

a. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

b. Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds received, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

c. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

d. Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

e. In order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school.

f. Adopt and implement model approaches to improve parent and family engagement.

g. Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.

h. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

i. Provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request:

(1) Translation Services

(2) Technical Assistance

(3) Flexible event schedules

E. Accessibility

1. In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand:

a. Information, flyers, forms, and reports will be made available in home language, and in the event they cannot be made available translations services will be arranged.

b. Technical assistance will be available to families in their home language.

c. Other support as determined by need

F. Adoption

1. This School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes.

2. This Policy was adopted by the Board of Education on the adoption date noted at the end of this Policy and will be in effect for the period of the school year. The school district will distribute this Policy to all parents of participating Title I children on or before October 1 of each school year.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Section 1116(a)(2)

1st Reading: June 21, 2022
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