
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Lyon County School District and the School Board recognize that parental involvement is vital to achieve maximum educational growth for students. Parents and families provide the primary educational environment, which makes them vital and necessary partners with the District and its staff throughout a student's educational career.

For purposes of District policy, the term "parent" refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc. Research indicates that when parents are involved in their children's education, the attitudes, behaviors, and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

Although parents come to the schools with diverse cultural backgrounds, primary languages, and needs, universally all parents want what is best for their children. School districts and schools, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students, staff, and administrators, must establish and develop efforts that enhance parental involvement and reflect the needs of students, parents, and families in the communities which they serve.

To enhance and maximize family-school partnerships, the following six elements have been identified as essential and will be promoted at all District school sites:

1. Welcoming all families into the school community by ensuring a positive educational environment is established for all students and their families by treating them in respectful and culturally sensitive ways.
2. Communicating effectively, both in providing a two-way communication structure for meaningful dialog about student learning and providing communication that is accessible and easy to understand.
3. Supporting student success by continuous, individualized, and cohesive communication about their child's learning and progress towards goals to aid families in supporting student learning at home.
4. Speaking up for every child by empowering families with the tools, resources, and assistance to navigate complex systems (such as Infinite Campus, IEP programs, etc.) and direct them towards programs that support and enhance student success.
5. Sharing responsibility in order to create an equal partnership among parents, families, and the District in making decisions that affect the student, as well as bringing parents from diverse cultural backgrounds together to participate in school development.
6. Collaborating with the community, providing a conduit for connecting families with programs, resources, and opportunities outside the school to assist in providing vital services and expanding learning activities (i.e. Resource Coordinators, partnering with outside agencies).

Policy #IICD
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In compliance with federal law and Nevada Department of Education guidelines, the District shall meet with parents to provide information regarding their school's participation in the Title I program and its requirements.

The School Board directs the Superintendent or designee to ensure that such meetings are held annually and at a convenient time. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure equivalence among schools and teachers, administration and other staff, and in the provisions of curriculum materials and instructional supplies. All parents of participating students shall be invited to attend. Parents shall be informed of their right to be involved in the development of the District's parental involvement policy, Title I plans, and school parent-parent compact.

Title I funds may be provided for transportation, child care, home visits, or other parental involvement services as appropriate.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Lyon County School District (LCSD) agrees to implement the following statutory requirements listed within our ten essential elements of parental involvement:

1. LCSD 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 1118 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). In addition, LCSD encourages families to be active participants in the life of the school, feel welcomed, valued and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class. Schools are open and inviting to parents, actively seeking parental support and assistance for school programs.
2. Consistent with section 1118, LCSD will work with its schools to ensure they require school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESSA.
3. The LCSD will incorporate the district-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of ESSA.

4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements to the extent practicable, the LCSD and its schools will provide full opportunities including translators and/or translation devices for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful: effective communication requires school-initiated contact with the parent and parent-initiated contact with the school where both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. To effectively communicate, both parties must be aware of cultural diversity and language differences and appropriate steps must be taken to allow clear communication for all participants.
5. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported: the family plays a primary role in a child's education, and schools must respect and honor traditions and activities unique to our communities' cultural practices and beliefs. When needed, parents are linked to programs and resources within the community that provide support services to families.
6. Parents play a vital role in assisting student learning: LCSD recognizes and acknowledges parents' roles as the vital and primary facilitator of their children's education. Research demonstrates that student achievement increases when parents are actively involved in the learning process. LCSD will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
7. LCSD is committed to the empowerment of parents and families to advocate for their children and the children of other parents and families to ensure that all students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that support student achievement. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LCSD will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
8. Parents are equal partners in the decisions that affect children and families: parents and educators have a joint responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to LCSD's youth. The role of parents in shared decision making and advisory committees should be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded utilizing best practices.

Parent Advisory Committee: Committee formed to recruit parents of Title I participating students for involvement in professional development opportunities, meetings, conferences and other related activities designed to enhance the role of parents in supporting the education of their children and advancing their own educational needs.

Definition of Best Practices: Procedures that are accepted or prescribed as being correct or most effective.

9. Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning: together, schools and parents will cultivate relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities and innovative programs for students.

10. The LCSD will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordant with this definition (*as referenced in point #4*): *Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –*
 - *That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning (referenced in point #6);*
 - *That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school (referenced in point #1);*
 - *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 (referenced in point #9);*
 - *The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESSA.”*

IMPLEMENTATION FOR TITLE I SERVED SCHOOLS

1. The LCSD will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan under section 112 of ESSA:
 - The LCSD will solicit parent representatives to sit on a committee for the development and review of its District Performance Plan (referenced in point #4).

 2. The LCSD will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:
 - The LCSD encourages parent participation in all School Performance Plan committees.
 - The LCSD will provide, train, and encourage parents to better understand the school improvement process so they may be better informed and contribute as members of the School Performance Plan committees (referenced in point #4).

 3. The LCSD will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - The LCSD manager will assist all principals receiving Title I funds to coordinate and provide professional development and technical assistance.

 4. The LCSD will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - The LCSD manager will assist in coordinating and integrating parental strategies with key staff focused in early intervention programs.
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5. The LCSD will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, or 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 parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies (referenced in point #8).
 - The principals of schools receiving Title I funds will share their survey data with the LCSD manager for synthesis and then the District Parental Involvement committee members will analyze the data annually and make recommendations to the District and schools for improvement.

TITLE I PLAN

As a part of the District's overall Title I plan, the District shall ensure effective involvement of parents by promoting activities that support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community that promote the improvement of student achievement. Plans will be developed by participating district schools and submitted to the District Office for review and support. The District will, with the assistance of District Title I schools and parents:

1. Provide assistance to parents of students served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as:
 - The State's academic content standards
 - The State's student academic achievement standards
 - The state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments
 - The State's proficiency level targets
 - The requirements of Part A
 - The school's curriculum
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their student to improve their student's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (as appropriate) to foster parental involvement by offering various parent programs.
3. Educate teachers, student services personnel, principals, and other staff (with the assistance of its schools and parents) in the value and utility of parent contributions and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in implementing and coordinating parent programs, and building ties between parents and the school.
4. Coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with early intervention programs, public preschool programs, and other programs to the extent feasible and appropriate.

5. Ensure, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the homes of participating students in a format and language the parent can understand.
6. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request consistent with Title I requirements.
7. May involve parents in the development of training of teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
8. May provide necessary literacy training from Title I funds received if the district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.
9. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child-care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related activities.
10. May train and support parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
11. May arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.
12. May establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I programs.
13. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

A school-parent compact shall be developed for each of the District's Title I schools. The compact shall:

- Describe the school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the State's student academic achievement standards.
- Describe the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their student's learning.
- Stress the importance of ongoing communication between teachers and parents through annual parent-teacher conferences at the elementary school level.

The District shall, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents of homeless students,

and parents of migratory students. Information and school reports will be provided in a format and language parents understand.

The District's policy, plan, and compact shall be adopted by the Board, reviewed annually, and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school and distributed to parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

LCSD's primary goal is to provide children with equal access to quality education. It is vital that all partners (parents, educators, communities, etc.) have the opportunity to provide input and offer resources to meet this goal. These partnerships are mutually beneficial. Developing cooperative efforts and linking access to resources will ensure quality schools and improved academic achievement for all students.

Legal References: Every Student Succeeds Act reauthorized 2015, P.L. 107-110, Title I Sections 1111-1120B.