

JCS Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy

19. Sec. 1112(b)(7)

Describe the strategy the local educational agency will use to implement effective parent and family engagement under section 1116. (This question will be answered in the written policy below).

Parent and Family Engagement Written Policy (Sec. 1116 (2))

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(A))

A. Describe how the Local Education 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).

The Jasper City School System will involve parents in accordance with the development of the LEA Parent & Family Engagement Plan under section 1112 of the ESEA, as amended by the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) of 2015 by involving parents to:

- *Serve on the LEA Title I Advisory Committee and provide suggestions/revisions on the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan on an annual basis*
- *Provide input in the development of each school's Alabama Continuous Improvement Plan (ACIP)*
- *Serve on school's ACIP committees*
- *Serve on school system calendar committees*
- *Provide on-going input with an open-door policy*
- *Offer suggestions for the Family Involvement Plan and make it available to all families*
- *Jointly create compacts with parents*

In addition, each school will notify parents and families of the date of the Annual Title I Meeting and invite parents and family members to attend. Schools will also host Open Houses, Parent and Family Engagement Workshops, and involve parents in Parent Surveys.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(B))

B. Describe how the Local Education Agency will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement 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.

The Jasper City School System has provided 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:

- *Parents will be encouraged to participate in monitoring their child's homework assignments, school attendance, and be in compliance with Jasper City Code of Conduct and school disciplinary procedures.*
- *The LEA supports early childhood education by funding two local preschool programs and encouraging the home/school connection with home visits by elementary teachers.*

- *Parents will be provided school related information in their native/home language.*
- *Parents are encouraged to access PowerSchool, school websites, district websites, and school and district Twitter and Facebook for information related to the schools and district.*
- *Each school develops a parent engagement plan with the input of parents and stakeholders.*
- *Through partnerships with community organizations such as the Department of Human Resources, Capstone, Northwest Mental Health Center, HARTT program, and the Family Service Center, efforts will be coordinated to provide the best possible services for students and families.*
- *The JCS Mental Health Coordinator, assistant coordinator, social workers, and case-workers will have input on meeting the needs of the whole child and the social-emotional learning of students.*

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(C))

C. Describe how the Local Education Agency will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

The district's mission is to "inspire students to achieve academic excellence and make positive contributions to our interconnected community and world." In other words, to ensure every student graduates prepared for success in college, career, and citizenship. The district recognizes that all stakeholders must become partners with the schools for students to be successful. The school district will continue, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, with the following examples of compliance:

- Alabama State Department of Education System and accountability reports
- Annual IELP Meetings for ESL Students
- ESL Parent Meetings and Orientations
- Annual Title I Parent Involvement Meetings
- Parent Organization meetings at the school level
- Multilingual programs that recognize and celebrate diversity at the school level
- Annual Parent, Faculty, and Student Inventories and Surveys
- Review each school's continuous improvement plan and give technical assistance in the development of each
- Provide resources for parent engagement and building capacity of parents

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(D))

D. Describe how the Local Education Agency will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying:

- (i) *barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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)*

Jasper City Schools recognize families as an integral component of student success. We strive diligently to involve parents and families. The district conducts, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement plan and uses the data to design/revise engagement activities and to identify barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities.

Each spring schools distribute the Title I parent surveys to parents. The results are analyzed and the results are used by each school in evaluating its parent engagement plan effectiveness. The results are used by the school and included in the needs assessment for revising the parent engagement plan

(ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers

The Jasper City School System offer meeting times and school involvement programs at different times of the day and in different means (digital/electronic) to accommodate working families. During the last two years, digital and Zoom meetings have been helpful due to the Covid pandemic. According to safe and healthy guidelines, visits are an optional means for teachers and the system case-worker to connect with families. The HIPPY program, through the Family Service Center will offer assistance to help meet the needs of parents of preschool students in our area.

(iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions

The Jasper City Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and offer programs such as an after-school remediation program and summer school programs to students who need assistance due to the loss of instructional time over the last two years. Parents are provided with resources on how to help their child(ren) at home.. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals 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 implement programs and build ties between parents and school.

Communication with parents and family members is crucial for each student's education as is building capacity with parents to ensure student success. The school district 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, by undertaking the actions described:

- *Inviting parents to serve on each school's CIP committee and assist in the development of the school plans*
- *Conduct Title I Advisory Committee meetings to develop/revise and review the LEA Consolidated Plan which includes the LEA Parent Engagement Plan.*
- *Ensure that each Title I school conducts an Annual Title I Meeting with parents. Meeting topics will include:*
 - *the State's academic content standards,*
 - *the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,*
 - *how to monitor their child's progress,*
 - *how to work with educators, and*
 - *provide opportunities for parents to meet with teachers/counselors to discuss their child's state assessment scores.*

The school system website www.jasper.k12.al.us is a key tool used to communicate with all stakeholders. The site is maintained by the system Director of Accountability. Recognizing all stakeholders may not have access to technology; the school system makes a point to reach parents in other ways as well. The school system's Spanish translator and ESL teachers provide Spanish translations of important school information to Spanish-speaking stakeholders. TransACT Compliance and Communication Center's translated school documents are available online, in 19 languages. The superintendent also disseminates information about Jasper City Schools to stakeholders. All school employees have email addresses through the school system website, and stakeholders with access to technology are able to communicate with every employee through email and voicemail. The school system's SchoolCast telephone system makes it possible for the Superintendent to speak directly to every employee and parent from her office.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(E))

E. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

District and school leadership teams and parent involvement teams will evaluate activities and programs and make recommendations for improvements. Parent, student and faculty surveys and informal feedback will be utilized to design activities and strategies for more effective parental involvement. The district will use the findings from the annual parent survey to provide opportunities to give families regular communication about their children's activities and progress in their preferred language and way of communication, recognize families as assets in strengthening relationships with other families, conduct family literacy events that embraces strategies, share data, learning frameworks, and best practices with families to reinforce high expectations for program/school quality and success.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(F))

F. Describe how the Local Education Agency will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

The Jasper City School System actively seeks ways to involve parents in the process of school and program review and participation. Some of the involvement activities include:

- *Involving family members and other stakeholders to serve on the schools' planning committees, Title 1 and Federal Programs Advisory Councils, ACIP committees, and continuous school improvement committees.*
- *Make Family Engagement plans available for all stakeholders.*
- *Jointly create compacts with parents.*
- *Invite parents to attend meetings or conferences to assist them in interpreting assessment results.*
- *Ensure the fair representation of different race and ethnicity groups on parent involvement teams.*
- *Planning engagement activities that meet the needs of each school's community.*

G. Describe how it will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

Parental participation is encouraged through school system and school parent involvement committees, parent teacher student organizations, annual meetings for Title I in addition to other beginning of each new school year registration days, and parent conference meeting times. Schools keep parents informed of student progress and upcoming events by maintaining updated school marquees, providing websites, corresponding via email, publishing newsletters, hosting athletic events, and sending home progress reports and report cards.

- *Schools coordinate with community agencies to provide workshops on a variety of topics such as: homework assistance, behavior management strategies, high school graduation exam requirements, and state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments.*
- *Businesses and community sponsors donate funds, supplies, and services in support of college and career days, rewards programs, campus clean-ups, and guest speakers.*
- *Utilize the home portal in Powerschool for up-to-date information.*

H. Describe how it will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

The Jasper City School System has provided 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:

- *Parents will be encouraged to participate in monitoring their child's homework assignments, school attendance, and be in compliance with Jasper City Code of Conduct and school disciplinary procedures.*
- *The LEA supports early childhood education by funding two local preschool programs and encouraging the home/school connection with home visits by preschool teachers.*
- *Parents will be provided school related information in their native/home language.*
- *The HIPPY program is available to parents of preschool youngsters. Federal funds help provide materials and supplies for this program. Also, the Family Service Center in our community offers a wide range of programs including The Parent Project.*
- *Parent involvement counseling/conferences are also expected when students participate in our pre-school program and in the alternative school settings.*
- *Parents will be invited to participate and volunteer in the free tutoring- extended day program offered to students before school.*
- *Mental Health Personnel and School Counselors serve as the liaison between parents and the school.*

I. Describe how it will educate 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.

The Jasper City Schools will solicit involvement of families to serve on the parent involvement programs and committees. Committee leaders, administrators and teacher leaders will work to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to build ties between parents and the school at the beginning of each school year.

Each school will notify parents of the date and time of its Annual Title I Meeting and invite parents and families to attend. At the meetings, schools will provide information about the school's participation in the Title I program and what it means to be a Title I school wide program and the rights of parents under the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015. The schools will conduct parent meetings throughout the year at flexible times meeting parent's needs.

The Jasper City School System has taken actions to involve parents in the process of school and program review and participation. Some of these actions include:

- *Invite parents to serve on the schools' planning committees, school improvement committees, and continuous school improvement committees.*
- *Make Parental Involvement Plan available for all stakeholders.*
- *Jointly create compacts with parents.*
- *Invite parents to attend meetings or conferences to assist them in interpreting assessment results.*
- *Ensure the fair representation of different race and ethnicity groups on parent involvement teams.*
- *Home visits by teachers, mental health staff, and administration are optional parent involvement/assistance meetings. These meetings must follow any health and safety guidelines.*

J. Describe how it will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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.

- *The school system will, when possible, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities such as:*
- *Preschool for four-year old at-risk students*
- *School based parent resource centers.*
- *The school system will take the following actions to ensure that 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:*
- *TransAct software is used to create documents in a language in which parents can understand.*
- *Parent Engagement Center libraries are replenished each year at Title I schools.*
- *Social Media: System and School Website, Facebook, and Twitter sites.*

- *Interpreters are used to communicate with parents if needed and tutors are used with students.*
 - *An ESL teacher participates in parent meetings as needed.*
 - *Hold meetings with community pre-school programs to collaborate and ensure smooth transitions to the public school program.*
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K. Describe how it will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The Jasper City School System will take the following actions to ensure that 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:

- *TransAct software is used to create documents in a language in which parents can understand.*
 - *Interpreters are used to communicate with parents if needed and tutors are used with students.*
 - *An ESL transition teacher is employed to provide information to newcomers and families.*
 - *The school system's website translates information into a wide range of languages.*
 - *ESL teachers and certified support are available to assist with translation and are involved in transitions.*
 - *The Schoolcast phone message system also translates verbal messages and texts into other languages.*
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L. Describe how it will ensure provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

The Jasper City Schools will offer 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. The district will provide reasonable support for parent engagement activities as parents may request based on the requests. Parent Involvement Team leaders will solicit requests from parents and plan with building principals accordingly. Parents may submit requests directly to the principal. Parents are invited to participate on district and school committees at which times input from parent and community members is encouraged.

M. Describe how the LEA may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

Training will be provided to the staff that emphasizes parents as partners in the education of their child. Parents will be involved through family engagement teams, parent compacts, ACIP committee, and planning of other parental and family engagement activities/nights. Involving parents to offer input on quality school programs and training activities based on the needs of their children and needs in our community is vital as we plan for professional development. The quality of the professional development program will be measured by the improved academic, social, and behavioral performance of students with disabilities on standardized testing, classroom assessments and other data such as discipline and attendance data.

N. Describe how the LEA may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this

part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

The Jasper City Schools will provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I, II, and other federal and state grants. These funds will only be used if all other reasonably available resources have been depleted. Materials and supplies for the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY) program will be funded through the At-Risk state program. Also, the Family Service Center in our community offers a wide range of programs including The Parent Project and other literacy based programs. Parent resource centers will be replenished each year in the Title I schools. Counselors will offer a variety of parenting classes based on the needs assessment in their schools.

O. Describe how the LEA 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 meetings and training sessions.

The Jasper City School System works to offer involvement activities and meetings at different times and days to accommodate parent needs. Partnering with the high school service clubs is one way to offer child care during scheduled parent meetings. Title I funds can be utilized as needed for parental involvement activities. The LEA will pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities as needed for parents to participate in school-related meetings or training sessions if needed. Alternative and media designed meetings will be utilized as appropriate.

P. Describe how the LEA may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

Parental participation is encouraged through school system and school parent involvement committees, parent teacher student organizations, annual meetings for Title I (2 each year) in addition to a separate open-house meeting at the beginning of each new school year, system wide parent conference day, weekly parent communicators in the elementary grades, fundraisers, and field trips.

Schools keep parents informed of student progress and upcoming events by maintaining updated school marquees, providing websites, corresponding via email, publishing newsletters, hosting athletic events, and sending home progress reports and report cards. In addition, Schoology and Powerschool are other means to stay abreast of student progress.

Schools coordinate with community agencies to provide workshops on topics such as homework assistance, behavior management strategies, and high school graduation exam requirements. Businesses and community sponsors donate funds, supplies, and services in support of college and career days, rewards programs, campus clean-ups, and guest speakers.

Q. Describe how the LEA may 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, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.

*Home visits are an optional means for teachers to build a positive relationship with parents and families. This means has not been utilized as much during the Covid Pandemic period. When possible, teachers often utilize this approach during the summer before school starts. However, it is also utilized throughout the school year with some of the mental health staff and administrators in the schools. Other meetings and communication include:
actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement policy/plan:*

- *Send letters home to parents informing them of a meeting.*
 - *Meetings to explain assessments and assessment results.*
 - *Have plans available for parents and send home plans for input.*
 - *Meet with parents annually for the purpose of seeking guidance and input for plan updates.*
 - *Maintain an open-door policy to receive on-going input.*
 - *Plan a variety of meeting times and days to accommodate parents.*
 - *Connect with families in an internet based digital format.*
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R. Describe how the LEA may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

Administrators and school personnel visit other schools and participate in professional development on best practices and effective parent involvement practices. Turn around training is used to disseminate information. Parents are encouraged to share information to enhance the overall school and parental involvement program. Parent Involvement programs through CLAS and MEGA conference, and school visits are a few ways that teachers and administrators can gather ideas from other school systems. Professional development participation in conferences which focus on family engagement will be encouraged throughout the schools. Turn-around training by mental health personnel and school counselors on parenting topics will be used in the school settings.

S. Describe how the LEA may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.

A system wide parent involvement advisory committee is established each year to offer input of parental involvement and the creation of an effective plan. School based teams also offer valuable insight and input to school and community needs. Parent involvement in district wide leadership teams will be utilized.

T. Describe how the LEA may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

The Jasper City Schools will develop relationships with community-based organizations and businesses by providing opportunities for each to visit and volunteer with schools. Business partners will be given a chance to donate to such events as Grandparents' Day, Spirit Days, Red Ribbon Week, Homecoming etc. The system will involve outside resources and agencies as needed such as: Jasper Family Service Center, Boys and Girls Club, Department of Human Resources, community action agencies, local businesses and programs. Parents have opportunities to be involved in parenting groups such as the Parent-Teen Project and Parent Project. Literacy programs and adult education are offered through the Jasper Area Family Service Center. The HIPPIY program will be utilized to reach, involve and educate parents of preschool youngsters.

Sec. 1116(f)

U. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

The Jasper City School System makes every effort to accommodate the needs of all parents and families. We will provide opportunities for full participation of parents with limited English

proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students.

- *Notices of parent activities will be sent home by students, posted on school websites and announced on School Cast in English and other native languages.*
 - *The schools will provide basic information and school reports in a format and to the extent practical, in a language that parents understand.*
 - *Schools will assist parents in home delivery of information and/or home visits by teachers as necessary.*
 - *Powerschool and Schoology platforms can be utilized by parents to access student data and information.*
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PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW REQUIRED INFORMATION

(1) INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

(A) IN GENERAL.—At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers, including at a minimum, the following:

(i) Whether the student’s teacher—

(I) has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction

s(II) is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification nor licensing criteria have been waived; and

(III) is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.

(ii) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph(A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent of a child who is a student in such school, with respect to such student—

(i) information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part; and

(ii) timely notice that the 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.

Please contact Rita Pilling if you have any questions or concerns:

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