



Parent and Family Engagement Policy Poplar Grove Middle School 2023-2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Poplar Grove Middle School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes Poplar Grove Middle School's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the school and district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

Poplar Grove Middle School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Poplar Grove Middle School will put into operation: programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, Poplar Grove Middle School will work with the FSSD to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, Poplar Grove Middle School will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If Poplar Grove Middle School's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the FSSD submits the plan to the state department of education.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will be governed by the following definition of family engagement knowing that we will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:

- (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;**
- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;**
- (C) 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) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Poplar Grove Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

Parents are active participants in developing and monitoring our parent involvement plan. Parent representatives will serve on the district’s Parent and Family Engagement Committee and the Advisory Councils/Shared Leadership teams at each individual school.

Poplar Grove Middle School’s family engagement committees and Parent Leadership work together to build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for stronger parental involvement. Although this Policy is shared with all schools, it will be consistently implemented at the District’s Title I schools.

Poplar Grove Middle will have a member on the FSSD Family and Community Advisory Council, which meets annually to assess, through consultation with parents, the effectiveness of the Family and Community Engagement Program and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental and community participation.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Poplar Grove Middle School will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement 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:

- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices inclusive of school parent and family engagement policies/plans, school parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide communication about and parent support in accessing parent portals and homework assistance by providing devices to use at each school and instruction provided if needed.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide parent support in accessing specific curricular online resources through links found on the FSSD website and through hard copies outlining instructions for access.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide parent support in accessing curricular online resources when students are working from home (for remote learning and homework).
- Poplar Grove Middle School will work closely with community and local businesses to help meet the needs of families. The District will make a concerted effort to grow these partnerships, by providing a template for their participation.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide written materials and oral presentations in English, Spanish, and other languages as needed in the school.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Poplar Grove Middle School will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. Poplar Grove Middle School will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- The District is responsible for designing and conducting an effective annual evaluation process whereby parents can share their ideas about the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of schools receiving Title I funds, and the plans designed to implement it.
 - The District will provide an opportunity for parents and families to give feedback and suggestions on the annual District Improvement Plan, and individual schools will solicit feedback from parents and families in developing their School Improvement Plans.

- The findings produced by the annual evaluation are utilized by the FSSD Parent and Family Engagement Committee in designing strategies for parental involvement and are used in the revision of this policy, if necessary.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Poplar Grove Middle School will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- Although Poplar Grove Middle School is not typically required to set aside 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for Parent and Family Engagement, the school and district chooses to set aside a set amount each year for this purpose.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide an annual meeting by September 15 to describe the school's participation in the Title I, Part A program. During this meeting, funds available for family engagement will be reviewed and ideas will be shared and solicited for use of the funds.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Poplar Grove Middle School will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Poplar Grove Middle School will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional support and resources to families, such as Morning and After Care programs, and service programs such as United Way's Raise Your Hand of Williamson County, The Gentry's Foundation, GraceWorks, PATH United, Mercy Community Healthcare, Boys & Girls Club of Franklin, The Nook, and more.
- School social workers provide local resources to schools to share with parents and families to support the wellbeing of children in our schools and community.
- Parent involvement activities will coordinate with ELL(English Language Learner) and Special Education programs in Poplar Grove Middle School.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Poplar Grove Middle School will, with the assistance of the FSSD, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards;
- The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators.

- Information regarding content standards, assessments, and student achievement will be sent home by Poplar Grove Middle School. Links to all information will be given to parents and will be posted on the district website.
- Assistance with understanding curriculum standards and academic requirements will be provided to parents during parent orientation, open houses, and family nights. The family nights will focus on literacy, math, coding, STEM, and science.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will encourage all parents to attend parent-teacher conferences to discuss a child's achievement progress.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will educate school staff in working with parents. Some examples of this training will include the following: (1) how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; (2) implement and coordinate parent programs; (3) and build ties and foster collaboration between parents and the school.
- School related information on programs, meetings, events, workshops, and other activities will be sent to parents weekly in a format and extent practicable and in a language the parents can understand. Blackboard Connect and social media will be used to provide communication to all families. Blackboard Connect will be sent in English and Spanish.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory and homeless students. Poplar Grove Middle School will provide information and school reports in a format and language that parents understand.
- Poplar Grove Middle School will promote parent involvement and community participation in programs for students receiving ELL students, migrant students, and students receiving special education and related services using FSSD Parent Liaisons.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Poplar Grove Middle School will, with the assistance of the FSSD and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of families. Additionally, PGMS will explain

how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and school by:

- Involving families in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Providing necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Training families to enhance the involvement of other families.
- Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with families who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities.