

Instruction

Parent Involvement

Title I LEA – Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Orange Unified School District

The Board of Education recognizes that parents/guardians are their children's first and most influential teachers and that sustained parent involvement in the education of their children contributes greatly to student achievement and a positive school environment.

- 1.0 The local governing board of each local educational agency (LEA) receiving Title I, Part A funding shall establish and implement a written parent and family engagement policy and program. (California Education Code (EC) §§ 11500-11504, 51101(b); 20 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 6318[a][1], 6318[a][2].)
- 1.1 Orange Unified School District (OUSD) has developed an LEA level written Title I parent and family engagement policy jointly with, agreed on with, and distributed to, parents and family members of participating children. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2]) Input is gathered through surveys, focus groups and discussion forums and reviewed with the District Advisory Committee (DAC), District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), and site parent advisory committees.

The District has distributed the policy to parents and family members of children served under Title I, Part A. The policy is distributed to families through the annual notification, site newsletters, student-family handbooks, and posted on the District's website. (20 U.S.C. § 6312, § 6318[a][2])

OUSD incorporates the parent and family engagement policy into the OUSD level plan. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2]) OUSD includes actions for improving parent and family engagement in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). These services and expenditures address parent and family engagement, including meaningful participation and opportunities to provide input on decisions. Actions and strategies are also included in the LCAP Federal Addendum.

To involve parents and family members in the Title I program at Orange Unified School District, the following practices have been established:

- (a) OUSD involves parents and family members in the joint development of the LEA planning efforts and in the development of support and improvement. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][A])

OUSD annually surveys parents and family members to gather feedback about what is working and areas of improvement around the LCAP, the LCAP Federal Addendum, as well as school goals and actions. Educational partner feedback is also gathered at school meetings, District and school parent advisory committee meetings, School Site Council meetings, and through other means. The information gathered is used to revise the District's LCAP, the LCAP Federal Addendum, and the sites' School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

- (b) OUSD provides coordination, technical assistance (TA), and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all participating schools within the District in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][B].)

District staff work collaboratively with site administrators to plan and implement parent and family engagement activities. A Community Liaison provides support to each Title I school site to promote planned activities. Activities for each site are described in the school's parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compact, and are included in the School Plan for Student Achievement.

(c) OUSD coordinates and integrates Title I, Part A parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][C].) Parent and family engagement activities for all programs, including State Preschool, English Learners, and Special Education, are coordinated with those offered through Title I, Part A.

(d) OUSD conducts, 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 the schools served under Title I, Part A, including identifying the following: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D].)

The District annually gathers input and feedback from stakeholders through the LCAP survey, discussion forums, as well as site and District advisory committees to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy.

OUSD identifies the following:

1. 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). (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][i])

The District annually gathers input and feedback from education partners through the LCAP survey, focus groups, discussion forums, as well as site and District advisory committees to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. Barriers are identified through this process and actions are put into address the needs of families, such as holding meetings at different sites, providing child care, and ensuring information is provided in a language and format easily understood by families. Barriers commonly identified are the need for child care, varied start time for working parents, and the difficulty for working parents to even attend school or District meetings.

2. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][ii])

Workshops are offered, and information is provided to families to support them with strategies to engage with the school. Strategies include questions to ask during parent conferences, how to contact their child's teacher, and assistance with completing school forms.

3. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][iii])

BP 6020(c)

Each school develops a site parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact designed to meet the needs of their families. Schools host family information nights, such as Math or Literacy Night, informal meetings with the principal, and other opportunities for families to engage with the staff. The compact describes how families and school staff share the responsibility for improving student achievement and how the school and families will collaborate to assist students achieve the State academic standards.

(e) OUSD uses the findings of such evaluation in section 1.1 (d) of the CE program instrument to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][E].)

The results of the evaluation are used to design evidence-based strategies to improve family engagement, and revise the parent and family engagement policy, as needed.

(f) OUSD involves parents in activities of schools served under Title I, Part A to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parents and family engagement policy. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][F].)

Each school designates family members to serve on the District Advisory Committee (DAC) and District English Learners Advisory Committee (DELAC). These committees review the results of the annual evaluation and input from education partners and use this information to develop, revise, and review the parent and family engagement policy.

1.2 The OUSD policy on parent and family engagement for all schools (Title I and non-Title I) in the LEA shall be consistent with the following goals and purposes: (EC §§ 11502, 11504, 11506.)

(a) Engage parents positively in their children's education by providing assistance and training on topics such as State academic standards and assessments to develop knowledge and skills to use at home to support their children's academic efforts at school and their children's development as responsible future members in our society. (EC §§ 11502[a])

All schools develop site parent and family engagement plans and school-parent compacts to address the needs of parents and families at their school. Each school offers parent and family engagement activities to assist families with supporting learning at home. Information and resources are shared with families at parent information nights, parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, as well as, on the website and in materials sent home.

(b) Inform parents and family members that they can directly affect the success of their children's learning, by providing parents with techniques and strategies that they may utilize to improve their children's academic success and to assist their children in learning at home. (EC §§ 11502[b])

Information and resources are provided to parents on strategies to assist their learning at home through parent meetings and family nights.

(c) Build consistent and effective two-way communication between family members and the school so that parents and family members may know when and how to assist their children in support of classroom learning activities. (EC §§ 11502[c])

BP 6020(d)

Each school publishes a monthly or quarterly newsletter to assist with home-school communication as well as connect families to additional resources both at the school and in the community. Information about the effectiveness of communication at each site is contained in the annual LCAP survey and used to improve services annually. In addition, school sites utilize phone messages to facilitate home-school communication. The Community Liaisons also support sites with improving communication.

(d) Train teachers, school administrators, specialized instructional support personnel and other staff to communicate effectively with parents as equal partners. (EC §§ 11502[d])

Site Principals provide resources, information, workshops, and training to teachers on evidence-based strategies for effectively communicating with families.

(e) Integrate parent and coordinate parent and family engagement activities with the local control and accountability plan (LCAP), as applicable, with other programs. (EC §§ 11502[e])

Each site annually develops a School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA) that includes goals, actions, strategies, and expenditures for family engagement in addition to goals to improve academic achievement and the learning environment.

1.3 Parents and family members of children receiving Title I, Part A services shall be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved are allotted for parental involvement activities. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][B])

Each school designates family members to serve on the District Advisory Committee (DAC) and District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC). These committees review input gathered from education partners about family engagement activities. This information is used to annually update the LCAP and the LCAP Federal Addendum, including the actions and services for parent and family engagement.

1.4 Funds reserved by OUSD shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the District's parent and family engagement policy, including not less than one of the following: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D])

(a) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development (PD) for District and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][i])

(b) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][ii])

(c) Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][iii])

BP 6020(e)

(d) Collaborating, or providing sub-grants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][iv])

(e) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that OUSD determines are appropriate and consistent with the parent and family engagement policy. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][v])

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

11500-11506 Programs to encourage parent involvement

48985 Notices in languages other than English

51101 Parent rights and responsibilities

52060-52077 Local control and accountability plan

54444.1-54444.2 Parent advisory councils, services to migrant children

56190-56194 Community advisory committee, special education

64001 Single plan for student achievement

LABOR CODE

230.8 Time off to visit child's school

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

18275 Child care and development programs, parent involvement and education

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

6311 State plan

6312 Local educational agency plan

6314 Schoolwide programs

6318 Parent and family engagement

6631 Teacher and school leader incentive program, purposes and definitions

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 28

35.104 Definitions, auxiliary aids and services

35.160 Communications

ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Orange, California

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