

Descriptor Term: TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Descriptor Code: KCBA

Rescinds: KCBA

Board Approved: 5/13/2019

Previously Approved: 06/06/2011

The Gulfport School District and Board of Trustees firmly believe the family is the most powerful influence of children and society, and that education provides access to unlimited opportunities. Therefore, we are committed to forming a strong partnership between home and school through the Title I program.

Furthermore, the District will comply with all requirements of the Title I legislation and Section 1116 (a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) including:

1. Parents will be invited to participate in the joint development of the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and in each school's School-Wide Plan.
2. Parents will be invited to participate in revisions of the Parent and Family Engagement policy and the process of planning, reviewing, and improving the School-Wide plan through the district's Parent Advisory Council and the school site Title I Planning Committees.
3. The District will provide technical assistance and other support necessary to build the capacity of all Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities that will improve student academic achievement and school performance.
4. The District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible, across other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and with programs such as, but not limited to, Head Start, private preschool daycare providers, and English Learner support programs.
5. The District will conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The committee will evaluate the effectiveness in improving the academic quality of the schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation of parents, and use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise if necessary.
6. The District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1% of the Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90% of the 1% reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

7. Parents will have the right to request the professional qualifications of their children's classroom teacher(s) including:
 - The qualifications to teach the subject matter
 - The type of credential held
 - The degree or graduate certificate held
 - If services are provided by a paraprofessional, what type of services and the paraprofessional's qualifications
8. The district, with the assistance of its Title I schools, will build parents and family members capacity by providing effective resources and training such as, but not limited to, helping support their children's academic achievement, understanding State standards, understanding State and local assessment requirements, monitoring their child's progress while working with school staff to improve academic success. [Section 1116 (e)(1) and Section 1116 (e)(2)]
9. The district, with the assistance of its schools and parents, will educate its teachers and support personnel about collaborating and communicating with parents as partners, building ties between parents and the school, and how to implement and coordinate parent and family engagement programs. [Section 1116 (e)(3)]

To accomplish these goals, the District and/or each school will:

- A. Jointly develop with parents a written parental and family engagement plan that shall describe the means for carrying out all parental engagement activities (e.g. compacts, parent/teacher conferences, reports of progress, and opportunities for participation). Each plan will be monitored to determine if the policies and practices meet the requirements of Title I, Part A. [Section 1116 (h)]
- B. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. [Section 1116 (e)(5) and Section 1116 (f)]
- C. Convene an annual meeting to which all parents are invited and encouraged to attend in order to plan, review, and improve the parental involvement policy/plan and the school-wide program.
- D. Offer a number of parenting meetings at flexible times or conduct in-home conferences between educators who work directly with the participating children or with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school. [Section 1116 (e)(10)]
- E. Provide full opportunities for the participation of parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, are migratory, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
- F. Include parents, when possible, as a part of school support teams designed to assist the district and schools in increasing student achievement and improving the effectiveness of trainings provided for personnel and parents. [Section 1116 (e)(6)]

- G. Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported by Title I, Part A. [Section 1116 (e)(12)]
- H. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs that will enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. [Section 1116 (e)(8)]