

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Pottsville Area School District
Federal Programs Office
1501 West Laurel Blvd.
Pottsville, Pennsylvania 17901

(Pottsville Area School Board adopted 6/8/22, reviewed 5/15/24)

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Pottsville Area School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (*ESSA, section 1116 (a)(2)(A)*). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level family engagement policies meet the requirements and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide family engagement policy into its LEA plan.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

 - (A) *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
 - (B) *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
 - (C) *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;*
 - (D) *the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.*

PART II **DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT
REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT
POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Pottsville Area School District will involve parents in the joint development of its Title I Plan under *Section 1116 (a)(2)(A) of the ESSA*.
 - Parental input will be requested through surveys and during the annual parent meeting which is held at the conclusion of the school year. During the meeting and on the surveys, parent input will be specifically requested for the consolidated application, parent workshops, parent/school communication, Parent and Family Engagement policies, Home/School Compacts, surveys, Schoolwide Plans, Title programs and allocations, Title I Parent and Family Engagement allocation, and activities and events for the upcoming school year.
2. The Pottsville Area School District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under *Section 1116 (a)(2)(A) of the ESSA*.
 - During the Annual Parent and Schoolwide Leadership Team Meetings, the targets and goals of the Schoolwide Plans and school programs will be reviewed and evaluated. Student and school data will be shared and analyzed with parents and family members during the team meetings. Decisions for improvements will be made as a team based on data. Parent survey results will be reviewed for input.
3. The Pottsville Area School District will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (*ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)*).
 - Parent and Family Engagement events will be designed with input from parents and will maintain a resource component to provide targeted support to improve student achievement. The Title Parent Resource Center is available in the Reading Centers at John S. Clarke Elementary Center and D.H.H. Lengel Middle School.
4. The Pottsville Area School District will coordinate and integrate family engagement strategies in Part A with other federal, State, and local laws and programs (*ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)*).
 - Parents of future Pottsville students in local preschool programs will be invited to attend a transition meeting to assist in preparing for kindergarten at John S. Clarke Elementary Center.
5. The Pottsville Area School District will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this 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 parents in family engagement activities (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). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its family engagement policies (*ESSA Sections 1116 (a)(2)(D)(i-iii) and 1116 (a)(2)(E)*).
 - At the annual parent meeting, the Parent and Family Engagement policies will

be reviewed and evaluated with the goal of improving the academic quality of John S. Clarke Elementary Center and D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. Parent and Family Engagement survey results will be utilized in the evaluations and to identify barriers to greater participation. Revisions will be made if necessary and shared with the Schoolwide Leadership Team and staff. Evidence-based strategies designed to increase effective parent and family involvement will be determined by the Schoolwide Leadership Team and implemented by staff.

6. The Pottsville Area School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A 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 in this paragraph --
 - the State's academic core standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators
 - B. The school district will, 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.
 - C. 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 the Parent Advisory Board, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools (*ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(F)*).
 - D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other 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.
 - E. The school district will 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.

PART III DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT COMPONENTS

NOTE: The Pottsville Area School District receives more than \$500,000 in funding and is required to set aside at least 1% of funds to be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the District and School Parent and Family Engagement policies. The District Parent and Family Engagement Policy includes additional paragraphs listing and describing other activities and strategies 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 following discretionary activities listed are determined as appropriate and consistent with the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training by utilizing the PA Title I State Parent Advisory Council- <https://www.spac.k12.pa.us/>
- providing necessary literacy training/workshops for parents 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 parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting virtual conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable fiscal support and input for expenditures involving family engagement activities under *ESSA Section 1116 (3)(D)(i-iii)* as parents may request.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the May 15, 2024 Family Engagement Meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Pottsville Area School District on June 8, 2022, and will be reviewed yearly. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2024.



Signature of Authorized Official



Date