

Saltsburg Elementary School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Vision:

The entire school staff and students of Saltsburg Elementary will share the responsibility for academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help empower all learners.

Purpose:

Saltsburg Elementary School acknowledges that families and schools have vital roles in ensuring that a child's development and education is a shared partnership that requires a collaborative effort. Each partner has the responsibility to be knowledgeable and to foster a climate of respect and cooperation for the benefit of all students.

Definitions:

Parent/Guardian: A person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare.

School: Saltsburg is one of two elementary schools in the River Valley School District.

Engagement: Shall be defined as an ongoing two-way dialogue between parent/guardian and the school.

Family School Partnership:

Although parents/guardians may be diverse in culture, language, resources and needs, all share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. Saltsburg Elementary School recognizes its responsibility to help eliminate barriers that impede family involvement and to create an environment supportive of comprehensive family involvement programs that have been developed in collaboration with parents/guardians. Therefore, this policy shall establish programs and practices that reflect the specific resources and needs of Saltsburg Elementary School and their families. With this in mind, all school correspondence will be written in an understandable format and provided in a language parents/family can understand.

Title I Requirements:

Saltsburg Elementary School shall incorporate Title I, Part A parent involvement requirements into this policy, programs and practices and ensure that all parent/guardians are informed about the opportunity and expectation to participate in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. The district shall ensure that parents/guardians are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and recommending allocation of resources. Parents are invited to attend Title I meetings, as well as other school functions, to assist in the education of their child, and that of all the students in the school.

Expectations:

Parents/guardians and family members shall actively participate in development of school board policies, strategic planning processes, school improvement plans, and family involvement activities. Family/School Partnerships (PTA) shall emphasize a strengths-based perspective that builds resiliency factors, and serves to leverage the resources and assets of family members, schools and communities to address needs and improve learning and achievement opportunities for all children.

- Parents will be invited to become engaged in the PTA for the school and be given information about the dates and times for the PTA meetings.
- Parents will receive notification of the annual Title I meeting to discuss the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved.
- Parent meetings, including parent conferences, will be held at different times during the day to accommodate as many parents' schedules as possible.
- Parents will receive timely information about Title I activities held throughout the year. The information will be sent home with the students and posted on the building's website. Information being distributed will be sent in a format and in a language that parents and family members can understand.
- Title I parent involvement funds will be distributed to Saltsburg Elementary School each year; to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities as determined by the school improvement team in the building.
- Saltsburg Elementary School will provide parents with Pennsylvania Common Core Standards, curriculum, benchmark assessment scores, and standards based report cards used to measure student progress. This will be accomplished by:

Meet & Greet

Annual Title I Meeting

Parent Conferences/Meetings

PTA Meetings

Title I Parent Engagement Activities

- A school-parent compact will be jointly developed between parents/family members and Saltsburg Elementary School that outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.
- There will be opportunities for parents to share concerns and offer suggestions for the continued improvements of our Title I Program through surveys, as well as attendance at Title I meetings.
- All parents will be given the opportunity to serve on the Title I Schoolwide Planning Committee made up of administrators, teachers, and parents. This committee is designed to guide in the development of a stronger Title I program. Members of this committee will plan, review, and offer suggestions for the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, school-parent compact, school-wide plan, parent survey, and professional development each year.

- Efforts will be made to assist parents in understanding Title I testing, state and local assessments, ways to monitor their child’s progress by identifying specific strengths and needs, and working with school staff to improve achievement.
- Parents are welcome in the school. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of the parents strengthens the family, school and community. Opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child’s education may include field trips, guest readers, Career Day, PTA committees, etc.

Elements of Effective Programs:

- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to achieve at high standards. Saltsburg Elementary will accomplish this through curriculum review, ongoing data analysis, and the implementation of research based intervention programs.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will engage parents in parent-teacher conferences annually and additionally as needed.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will provide feedback to parents through the form of a standards based report card four times per year. Information regarding a child’s performance on benchmark assessments in reading and math will also be shared.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will provide parents with access to staff via conferences, telephone calls, school/district website (including the parent portal), Friday folder correspondence, monthly calendar of events, and email.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will encourage parents to volunteer in classroom and school activities.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will provide parents access to instructional materials and on-line resources in a format and in the language that parents and family members can understand.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will encourage parents to participate in parent engagement activities.
- **Saltsburg Elementary School** will provide parents with updates regarding WIN (What I Need) placement.

Evaluation:

Parents/guardians will participate in evaluating the implementation and effect of this policy and our school improvement plans. This evaluation will be used to improve and/or create practices to enhance parent involvement. This policy will be reviewed yearly and/or revised as needed.