



School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Freedom Middle School

School Year 2024-2025

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Freedom 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(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

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

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, 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 the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (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 ESSA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- ☐ Parents are active participants in developing and monitoring our parent involvement plan. All parents have the opportunity to attend all meetings related to Title I, PTO, etc. to provide input.
- ☐ Freedom Middle School's PTO works to build the schools' and parents' capacity for stronger parental involvement.
- ☐ The FMS Family and Community Advisory Council meets annually to assess, through consultation with parents, the effectiveness of our Family and Community Engagement Plan and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental and community participation. In order to accomplish this, we invite all who wish to participate to attend the council meeting(s) with FMS staff.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

FMS will hold our annual Title I meeting no later than September 15th. We will also send out the presentation electronically via ParentSquare for families who are unable to attend the meeting to review.

COMMUNICATIONS

Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

The FMS parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to families electronically and be available in our front office at any time throughout the school year. Our PTO will also be used to inform families of meeting times and locations. We will also use social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) to inform families of upcoming meeting times, dates and locations.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Freedom Middle will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Freedom Middle School will create a draft version of our School-Parent Compact and present it to a representative sample of families for review and feedback. We will meet with the families on August 20, 2024, to discuss any suggestions they provide that will enrich the final version of the compact.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Freedom Middle School will take the following actions to involve the families 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 by:

- Although Franklin Special School District is not typically required to set aside 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for Parent and Family Engagement, the district chooses to set aside a set amount each year for this purpose.
- The individual schools will provide an annual meeting in the fall 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

Freedom Middle School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Franklin Special School District will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families such as public preschool programs, state-funded preschool programs, Morning and After Care programs, and service programs such as United Way's Raise Your Hand, Williamson.
- Parent Involvement activities will coordinate with ELL and special education programs in Franklin Special School District.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Freedom Middle School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in 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 the 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. Establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith based organizations, in family engagement activities.

Freedom Middle will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

- Information regarding content standards, assessments, and student achievement will be sent home by the individual schools. 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 at all individual schools during parent orientation, open houses, and family nights. The family nights will focus on literacy, math, coding, STEM, and science.
- Franklin Special School District will provide school-parent compact templates for each school that provide understanding on topics such as the State's academic content standards, TCAP and local academic assessments, requirements of ESSA, how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement.
- The schools will encourage all parents to attend parent-teacher conferences to discuss a child's achievement progress.

- The FSSD schools 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 in a format and extent practicable and in a language the parents can understand. ParentSquare messages and social media will be used to provide verbal communication to all families. ParentSquare communications will be available in English and Spanish, and other languages, based on parent's preferences.
- Parents will be encouraged to be involved in the activities at their child's school. Monthly newsletters (and calendars for elementary schools) will be sent home with each student to provide updates and details of upcoming activities throughout the school system.
- Franklin Special School District will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory and homeless students. The schools provide information and school reports in a format and language that parents understand.
- The school system will promote parent involvement and community participation in programs for students receiving ELL services, migrant students, and students receiving special education and related services.