

Parent and Family Engagement

1. Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% parent and family engagement set-aside, and the rights of parents involved. (Sec. 1116(c)(1))

Our district Federal Programs Advisory Committee which is made up of representatives from each school's ACIP team meets twice per year to review a needs assessment, Title I plan, and set-asides for the upcoming year. The District Parental Involvement Specialist will provide services to all Title I schools to increase parent involvement through Title I annual meeting of parents and parent communications. An Annual Federal Programs Informational Meeting for all parents will be held in each school prior to September 30. The district Parent Involvement Specialist will provide a PowerPoint presentation that explains the District Set-Asides, with emphasis on the 1% set aside for Parent Involvement. The presentation will also cover the Title 1 requirements, Parents' Right-to-Know, and opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education and as a volunteer at the school. A handout will be provided for all attendees with a written summary of the information covered in the meeting. A detachable section is provided for their signature as well as their comments, complaints, and/or suggestions. The detachable forms will be collected and used as additional parent input and will be considered in a future CIP committee meeting.

2a. Describe how there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

Southeastern School held an annual meeting at "Meet the Teacher" in August of 2024 addressing the Title I programs, the curriculum, and forms of academic assessment used. PTO leadership and faculty of Southeastern School strongly believe in the importance of parental involvement and therefore offer monthly parent meetings, in an open forum. In addition to PTO meetings, parents are encouraged to volunteer during the school day and are asked to serve on a variety of sub-committees. Parents are encouraged to schedule parent-teacher conferences by scheduling appointments during the teacher's prep time throughout the school year. Southeastern hosts a "Meet the Teacher Day" for all parents prior to the beginning of school, and "Kindergarten Signing Day" for incoming kindergarteners. Blount County allows for a day to be set aside in October for parent teacher conferences. This allows for scheduling flexibility for working parents.

2b. Describe how parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making).

Southeastern School has formed a CIP Team which consists of the principal, teachers, community stakeholders, parents and a student. The team meets as needed to formulate, edit, review and revise the CIP. Sub-committees are formed to address independent sections of the CIP, and each section is discussed and reviewed by the full committee before the plan is finalized. An annual parent survey is conducted by the LEA Parent Involvement Specialist. The results of this survey are summarized, including all parent comments, and provided to the principal for review and consideration by the CIP committee before the CIP is finalized. Parents also have the opportunity to make comments, suggestions, and voice complaints in writing to the school's principal for consideration during the planning of the CIP. A copy of the CIP is available in the school's office and on the school's link on the system's website.

2c. Describe how funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school. (Sec. 1116(c)(2)(3)).

Money in the Title I budget is used primarily for parent communications.

3. Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children.

(Sec. 1116(c)(4)(A)(B)(C))

Each student/parent is provided a copy of the Blount County School system's Student Handbook. Student handbooks are quite comprehensive covering general information, standard operating procedures, and general guidelines regarding what is expected of system, students and parents.

4. Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated). (Sec. 1116(d))

Southeastern School has developed a School-Parent Compact with guidance from the district level and input from parents and school officials. The School-Parent Compact is made up of three sections, one section each for the school, parent, and student because of each of these shares the responsibility for educating Southeastern School students. The first section contains a statement from the school regarding its responsibility to optimize learning for each child. The second section addresses the responsibilities of the parent or guardian of each student. Parents are encouraged to participate in as many of the activities as time and opportunity allow. The third section is the student section and details the responsibilities of the students. Teachers and parents are encouraged to revisit the compacts during parent/teacher conferences, IEP meetings, and disciplinary

hearings. School-Parent Compacts are stored in the student's homeroom and made available to all teachers serving the student. The School-Parent Compact is available in English and Spanish.

5. Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan. (Sec. 1116(c)(5))

If a parent of participating children is not satisfied with the plan, this parent may submit to the principal of Southeastern any comments about such plan. In addition, the Blount County Board of Education will provide the availability to each child a parent survey in the Spring to evaluate programs and communications available to families. An annual parent survey is conducted by the LEA Parent Involvement Specialist. The results of this survey are summarized, including all parent comments, and provided to the principal for review and consideration by the CIP committee before the CIP is finalized. The survey is available in both English and Spanish. The parent survey, Parent Information Brochure, numerous educational website links, and email links are available on the Parent Involvement link on the district's website. Parents may submit comments of dissatisfaction to the LEA Parent Involvement Specialist who will in turn advise the principal.

6a. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

Southeastern offers a Meet the Teacher time where parents will be given the opportunity to meet their child's teachers and learn about individual class requirements and what their role will be in helping their child to succeed. The system parent liaison is employed to communicate with parents regarding school and student information. We also host a parent information night for grades K-3, to inform parents of the Alabama Literacy Act and its effect on their child. Southeastern also hosts an annual Federal Programs meeting during the fall. In this meeting, parents receive an overview of the state academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and an explanation regarding Title I, services that are offered, and how parents have the right to be involved in their children's education. Several workshops and special events for families are held.

6b. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.

Southeastern School will work with its teachers through in-services, faculty meetings, and PTSO in understanding the importance of parental involvement and that parents are our partners. Parent volunteers help with workdays at school, with the Fall Festival (our yearly fundraiser), PTSO membership drives, as well as building based committees. The principal meets with the LEA Parent Involvement Specialist to review Title I requirements of parent involvement. The Principal then implements suggested strategies and events and utilizes available material to meet the requirements, if necessary, to accomplish those goals.

6c. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal 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.

Southeastern School encourages involvement for all parents. Some of the parents of our EL students are involved in our parenting activities. They are encouraged to consult with our teachers as needed and use the available resources to supplement their child's mastery of required subjects.

6d. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children.

(See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Information on school meetings, parent notices, etc., is sent to parents of our EL children in Spanish. Southeastern staffs a full-time bilingual instructional aide and may access a bilingual home-school liaison who assists in verbally communicating with these parents as needed. All district calls and plans are distributed in both English and Spanish depending on a family's response to the student's home language survey which can be amended upon request by the parent. Progress notes are available in students' home languages. And, the district employs a migrant home Liaison to support parents' understanding of school processes and to support them with needs unique to their learners including tutorial services.

6e. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Southeastern makes every effort to work with parents in meeting their requests as related to their involvement in their children's education. Parent conferences are scheduled in conjunction with the distribution of progress reports and 9-week grade reports. Grades, as well as, I-Ready, AimsWeb and ACAP scores may be explained at this time. Southeastern also conducts an annual Fall Festival and Field Day in which many parents and community members are involved. We follow a Parent Involvement Plan outlined by the district. And many of our grandparents raising our learners attend meetings designed to support them in their efforts as well as to provide networking among their peers. This service is provided by our district leadership.

7. Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. (See ESSA Sec. 1117(f))

Translators and sign-language interpreters are on staff with the Blount County Board of Education to ensure that all parents are able to understand the information being presented. All schools and facilities are handicap accessible including Southeastern School. Reports and information, including student progress notes and report cards, are available in Spanish, or other languages (as needed). Special accommodations are continuously made to communicate with parents by phone and home visits as needed. A Migrant Liaison is on staff at the Blount County Professional Development Center offering a wide variety of supports which also include the following: - Translating and support at all events including I.E.P. meetings and school functions - Translation of all written materials including Parent compacts, student handbook, newsletters, home-to-school connections, progress notes, report cards, etc. - Home visits to encourage school attendance and respond to needs that may not be expressed at the local school (tutoring needs, clothing, hygiene, food, medical, immunizations, dental, vision, financial aide, school supplies, etc.) and Pre-K programs (multiple locations) - Outreach and identification of migrant families (posters, flyers, school notifications, dedicated direct phone line, booths at local events to inform parents of EL and migrant students of support services, etc.) - Professional Development for teachers to better serve students - Grade monitoring for all migrant and EL students with support provided for at-risk (drop out, failing, poverty) students - Information provided to parents about student options for College and Career Readiness (Career Tech, AP, ACT testing support, dual enrollment, WorkKeys, Industry Credentials, military enlistment, etc.) - Family Literacy activities.