

**District Parent and Family Engagement Policy**  
**Franklin Special District**  
**2024-2025**



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Franklin Special District 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The ***Franklin Special District*** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, 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 district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:
  - Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:**
    - (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 ESEA.**

**I. JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The Franklin Special District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Parents are active participants in developing and monitoring our parent involvement plan. Parent representatives will serve on the Advisory Councils/Shared Leadership teams at each individual school, and the FSD PTO Chairs collaboration committee will consist of all parents who are able and willing to provide input during a designated input session each year.
- Franklin Special District’s school PTO groups and the district PTO Chairs collaboration committee work to build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for stronger parental involvement. Although this Policy is shared with all schools, it will be consistently implemented at the District’s Title I schools.
- The PTO Chairs collaboration committee meets annually to assess, through consultation with parents, the effectiveness of the District’s Parent and Family Engagement Policy and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental involvement and community participation. This committee will be composed of representatives from parents of students in elementary and 5-8 schools and representatives from the school district. This committee will be open to all parents who wish to join and provide input during a designated input session annually.

## II. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Franklin Special District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Franklin Special District will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices inclusive of school parent and family engagement policies/plans, school parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements.
- Franklin Special District will provide communication about and parent support in accessing parent portals and homework assistance by providing devices to use at each school and instruction provided as needed.
- Franklin Special District will provide parent support in accessing specific curricular online resources through links found on the FSD website and through hard copies outlining instructions for access. This will be done annually for new and returning families.
- Franklin Special District will provide parent support in accessing curricular online resources when students are working from home (for remote learning and homework).
- Franklin Special District will work closely with community and local businesses to help meet the needs of FSD families. The District will make a concerted effort to grow these partnerships.
- Franklin Special District will provide information and school reports in a format and language that parents understand.

## III. ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Franklin Special District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and 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 families in activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- The District is responsible for designing and conducting an effective annual evaluation process whereby parents can share their ideas about the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of schools receiving Title I funds, and the plans designed to implement it.
- The District will provide an opportunity for parents and families to give feedback and suggestions on the annual District Improvement Plan, and individual schools will solicit feedback from parents and families in developing their School Improvement Plans.
- The findings produced by the annual evaluation are utilized by the FSD PTO Chairs collaboration committee and district/school leadership in designing strategies for parental involvement and are used in the revision of this policy, if necessary.

#### **IV. RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The Franklin Special District will involve the parents and family members 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 and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- Although Franklin Special 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 Title I schools will provide an annual meeting by September 15 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.

#### **V. COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The Franklin Special District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Franklin Special 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, The Gentry's Foundation, GraceWorks, Mercy Community Healthcare, Boys & Girls Club of Franklin, The Nook, United4Hope, and more.
- Parent involvement activities will be accessible to all families, including the ELL (English Language Learner) and Special Education programs in Franklin Special District.
- School social workers provide local, community resources in English and Spanish (and other languages as needed) for schools to share with parents and families to support the wellbeing of children in our schools and community.

## VI. BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

The Franklin Special District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards;
  - The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
  - The requirements of Title I, Part A;
  - How to monitor their child's progress; and
  - How to work with educators.
- 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 activities that promote student learning on state standards and content, including for literacy, math, coding, STEM, social studies, and science.
  - Franklin Special District will provide school-parent compact templates for each school that provide understanding on topics, such as the following: state's academic content standards, TCAP and local academic assessments, requirements of ESSA, parental and students' rights under IDEA, 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 FSD 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) build ties and foster collaboration between parents and the school; (4) and provide an opportunity for staff to take a conversational Spanish class, as requested/needed.
  - 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 and social media will be used to provide relevant communication to all families. ParentSquare communications will be available in English and Spanish, based on language preferences.
  - Parents will be encouraged to be involved in the activities at their child's school. Consistent communication will be shared with families through ParentSquare and/or through information sent home with students, in order to provide updates and details concerning upcoming activities

(e.g., Family Nights, concerts, theater productions, sporting events, PTO gatherings and meetings, fundraising activities, and other parent events) throughout the school system.

- Franklin Special 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. We also have access to an interpretation service for communicating with parents and families in languages that are less commonly-spoken in our community.
- The school system will promote parent involvement and community participation in programs for students receiving ELL services, students experiencing homelessness, migrant students, and students receiving special education and related services.

## **VII. BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The Franklin Special District will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff 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 schools 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 districtwide parent engagement committee 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.