



JOHN P THOMAS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S  
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2024-2025

1. Parents, Teachers, School Administrators and Community Representatives planned, developed, and agreed on this policy jointly in team work sessions during our School Improvement Council (SIC) and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) which is called—Family Engagement Committee meetings. After this, the policy was made available for comments through the dissemination of a draft, a revision and then a finalized copy for publication. School-wide distribution ensures each parent receives the “final” version of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be updated as needed and reviewed annually for improvements by the School Improvement Council (SIC) and Parent Advisory Council (PAC)—Family Engagement Committee.
2. Within 45 days of the new school year, Title I, PTA (Parent Teacher Association), Open House meeting will be held by the school's administration to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title 1 program, program requirements, and the “Every Student Succeed Act.” Parents will also be informed about the following:
  - The provisions of Title I at the school is to encourage engagement, inform parents of their rights and ways they can become engaged at the school.
  - Federal and state programs that will assist in raising the achievement level of all the students (i.e., IDEA, Title V, Act135, EAA), parents will also be made aware of the resources available to their children due to the additional federal and state funds.
  - The curriculum at the school and additional programs that help raise the achievement level of the students most academically in need.
  - Assessments used at the school and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. (Common Formative Assessments, SCREADY, SCPASS (SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards), and Social Studies, MyIGDI's (Individual Growth and Development Indicators-Prek), Iowa, CogAT (Cognitive Abilities Test), BAS (Benchmark Assessment Screening-K & 3<sup>rd</sup> and priority students in 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup>), STAR, KRA.
  - Parents will be informed of the school's improvement identification under Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA) and what it means.
3. Title I, PTA, Open House/Parent/Teacher Conferences, School Improvement Council (SIC), and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings will be held at various times during the day. Parent workshops will be offered throughout the year to keep parents abreast of resources, materials, and strategies that are used daily. Transportation, refreshments, and childcare may be provided to help increase parents' attendance at these meetings.
4. Title I funds may be used to pay for necessary expenses associated with the parent involvement activities. Transportation, childcare, and/or home visit expenses are used to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
5. Parents, Teachers, School Administrators and Community Representatives planned and reviewed the school's Title I program jointly in monthly team work sessions during our Family Engagement Committee meetings. After this, the program information will be available for comments through the dissemination of a draft, a revision and then a finalized copy for publication. The school's Title I plan will be updated as needed and reviewed annually for improvements by the Family Engagement Committee members.
6. Parents, Teachers, School Administrators and Community Representatives will participate in planning and developing the school-wide Program Plan jointly in team work sessions during the Family Engagement Committee meetings. A copy of the school-wide plan is available in the school office and the parenting center. Parents may submit comments on the plan in writing to the principal's office. If a parent is not satisfied with the school-wide plan, the parent's comments will be submitted to the district along with the school-wide plan when the school submits its school-wide plan to the district.

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7. Our school has not been identified for School Improvement.
8. Parents will receive timely notices about parental engagement opportunities through several different means:
  - School newsletters, e-mail, local churches email systems, the school messenger system (automated), marquee, flyers and phone calls will be used to notify parents.
  - The school web site <http://jpthomas.richlandone.org>.
  - The Richland One TV Station (Channel 12)
  - PTA Meetings, Family Engagement Committee Meetings and School Wide Planning Team Meetings.
  - Social media: John P. Thomas Facebook, X and other social media platforms.
  - Any other communication methods.
9. Title I, PTA, Open House/Parent/Teacher Conferences, School Improvement Council (SIC), and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)—Family Engagement Committee meetings will be held by the school's administration to provide parents with a description and an explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the academic assessments and the proficiency levels children are expected to achieve.
10. Title I (PTA) Open House, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Math & ELA (English Language Arts) Concept Days, Curriculum (ELA & Math) Nights workshops will be held by the school's administration to help parents understand the State's academic standards, student achievement standards and academic assessments. These workshops are subject to be held in-person, virtually, or both. Frequently during the school year, parents will receive information and reports on their child's academic progress (interims issued, agenda books, etc.)
11. Title I, PTA, Open House/Parent/Teacher Conferences, School Improvement Council (SIC), and Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)—Family Engagement Committee, will be held to provide opportunities for parents to formulate suggestions and participate in decisions relating to the education of their child. If requested, parents may request follow-up meetings with the school's administration to discuss any additional concerns. The school's suggestion box is visibly located in the front office, and on the school's website for parents' use to make suggestions and recommendations, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. The administration will respond to any suggestions or recommendations within 5 days of its submission by email, or phone.
12. Parents, Teachers, School Administrators and Community Representatives planned, developed, and agreed jointly on the Parent – School – Community Compact in team work sessions during our Family Engagement Committee meetings. The compact will be sent home to parents for comments, and the final compact will be disseminated early in the year for all appropriate signatures. The compact will be updated as needed and reviewed annually for improvements by the Family Engagement Committee.
13. To help parents work with their children to improve achievement, Title I funds may be used to pay for materials and training for the following programs: Curriculum Nights (ELA & Math), Parenting Partners, and AVID parent information nights. Materials are made available to the parents in our Parenting Room.