

POLICY

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2415.76 (Public School No. 26) TITLE I - SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A. District Expectations

1. In accordance with the requirements of Title I, Section 1116(a)(2), ESEA, the Board of Education agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:
 - a. The school district will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
 - b. The school district will work with its schools to ensure the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the Title I, Part A requirements and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
 - c. The school district will incorporate this School Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its district plan.
 - d. 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 parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and,



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to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- e. If the school district plan for Title I, Part A funds are not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan upon request by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).
- f. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than ninety percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. (Only applicable for districts with Title I, Part A allocations greater than \$500,000.)
- g. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 - (1) "Parent and family engagement" means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (a) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - (b) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;



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(c) That parents 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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

h. The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in New Jersey.

B. School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Required Components

1. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent and family engagement plan:
(List actions)

a. A morning and evening meeting will be scheduled during September for parents to meet with the home school liaison to discuss how they can support the school's mission and vision.

b. Parent representatives from each grade level will meet with administration and faculty to draft the plan. Follow-up meetings will be scheduled until a final draft has been completed.

c. The final plan will be sent to parents via School Messenger.



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2. The school will convene an annual meeting at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirements of this part and the right of the parents to be involved:
(Describe when and where the annual meeting will be held.)

The annual meeting will be held on Back-to-School Night in the School auditorium, from 6-8 p.m.

3. The school will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, Part A, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement:
(Describe how flexibility is provided.)

The home school liaison will have regular scheduled morning/evening monthly meetings with parents. Child care will be provided onsite as needed. If needed, one or both scheduled meetings can be conducted virtually.

4. The school will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
(List activities)
 - a. Monthly meetings with home school liaison.
 - b. Monthly PTO Meetings.
 - c. Monthly School Improvement Plan Meetings.



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5. The school will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities specifically described below:
 - a. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, assist parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - (1) The challenging state academic standards;
 - (2) The state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments;
 - (3) The requirements of Title I, Part A;
 - (4) How to monitor their child's progress; and
 - (5) How to work with educators to improve their children's achievement.
(List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-state and out-of-state, and any equipment or other materials necessary to ensure success.)
 - (a) Back-to-School Night is the foundational meeting to inform parents of the school's operational aspects and expectations of students and parents.
 - (b) Teachers provide parents with a more specific and detailed account of classroom procedures and how they will



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communicate with parents, as well as ascertain from parents the best way to communicate with them. Teachers communicate with parents regularly and as needed for individual students.

- (c) Monthly meetings with the home school liaison, the monthly Parent Teacher Organization Meetings, and The Monthly School Improvement Plan Meetings are venues where parents can make recommendations and participate in decision-making.

- 6. The school will provide parents of participating children if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.

- a. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by:
(List activities)

- (1) The monthly meeting facilitated by the home school liaison will offer a variety of information and training meetings that will support parents in their knowledge of content subject matters and provide them with strategies for supporting their child at home.



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- (2) The Parent Teacher Organization is another vehicle through which parents can obtain information and training in areas of interest that will strengthen their ability to support their child and the larger school community.
 - (3) The School's website will inform parents of workshops and other parent engagement activities that support the School's vision and mission and in which they can participate.
- b. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, 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 to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- (List activities)*
- (1) The home school liaison will have opportunities to provide administration and staff information on how to communicate more effectively with parents during monthly scheduled professional learning communities. The home school liaison can also present information that she feels is needed at monthly faculty meetings to improve relationships with parents.
- c. The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and



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family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other 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, by:

(List activities)

- (1) Work collaboratively with the Early Childhood Department to support their initiatives in this area related to our school community.

- d. The school will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

(List actions)

- (1) All written communications are distributed in English and Spanish.
- (2) Information sent to parents via School Messenger is sent in all languages offered on the platform.
- (3) Select information posted on the School's website in English and Spanish.

7. The school will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies under the following



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programs: [Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and state-operated preschool programs], by:
(List activities)

- a. Girl Scouts
- b. Paterson Community Police Division

8. The school will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to economically disadvantaged parents who are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies:
(List actions, such as describing how the evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents will play.)

- a. Parents are members of the School Improvement Plan and participate in the annual review and updating of the Plan.
- b. During Monthly Parent Teacher Organization Meetings, parents can make recommendations that



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can be implemented within a reasonable amount of time if the recommendations are feasible to implement within the current school year. If they cannot be implemented during the current school year, they can be tabled for the upcoming school year.

- c. Monthly meetings with the home school liaison provide parents with additional opportunities to effectuate change in the school's culture and climate.
9. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:
(*List activities*)
- a. Monthly Parent Teacher Organization Meetings.
 - b. Monthly Home School Liaison Meetings.
 - c. Annual School Improvement Plan Review.
10. If the Annual School Plan (school-wide program plan) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the Annual School Plan (ASP) when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency:
(*List actions*)
- a. Parent concerns will be noted in the plan and submitted to the District for review, appropriate action, and approval.
- C. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement



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1. As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement:
(List actions)
 - a. N/A
- D. Discretionary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components
 1. The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:
 - a. Involve parents in developing training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
 - b. Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds received if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available funding sources for such training.
 - c. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.



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- d. Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- e. To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at various times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who cannot attend such conferences at school.
- f. Adopt and implement model approaches to improve parent and family engagement.
- g. Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to advise on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, and Part A programs.
- h. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.
- i. Provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request:
(List actions)
 - (1) The home school liaison works collaboratively with parents to ensure that they are an integral part of the school's decision-making process and that their ideas and concerns are heard and understood.
 - (2) The Parent Teacher Organization meets monthly to keep parents informed of school operations and inform the school's faculty of parental concerns and initiatives. It is another



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conduit to support parent and family
engagement activities.

E. Accessibility

1. In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, districts, and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand:
(List actions)
 - a. The school will provide the necessary support that will allow all stakeholders an equal opportunity to be active participants in the school community, be it the translation of written communications in the appropriate language, having interpreters present for parent meetings, and other technical support devices that will bridge the divide in parents being an active participant in the school community.

F. Adoption

1. This School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes.
2. This Policy was adopted by the Board of Education on the adoption date noted at the end of this Policy and will be in effect for the period of the school year. The school district will distribute this Policy to all



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parents of participating Title I children on or before
October 1 of each school year.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Section
1116(a)(2)

Adopted: 18 October 2023

