Title I - Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Section 1116(a) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) states that districts served under Title I, Part A must jointly develop with, agree on with and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and describes how the district will meet the following requirements. The term "parent" refers to parents, guardians, family members and caregivers.

SECTION I: INVOLVE PARENTS IN POLICY AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Morgan County Schools will:

1. Involve parents in jointly developing and agreeing on the district parent and family engagement policy with regular communication through advisory councils, School-Based Decision-Making Councils, Parent Teacher Community Organizations, and written communication in the form of surveys.
2. Involve parents and family members in jointly developing the comprehensive district improvement plan (CDIP) and the development of the comprehensive school improvement plans (CSIPs). Parent organization groups will review the CDIP and CSIPs and feedback will be utilized to develop and make changes as needed. Various opportunities to provide input will be offered throughout the school year beginning with the Annual Title I Meeting at the beginning of the school year.
3. Morgan County Schools will make a good faith effort to convene an annual meeting at a convenient time to which all parents and family of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend for informing them of their school's participation in and requirements for Title I programs and of their rights to be involved. Notification of the meeting will occur through communication apps, social media, written letters home with students, and utilization of communication systems within the community.
4. 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 plan designed to implement it. The process shall focus on the following questions: Does this Policy increase parent participation? What barriers to parent participation still exist, and how can they be reduced or removed?
5. The findings produced by the annual evaluation shall be utilized to design strategies to identify evidence-based strategies for school improvement and for revising this Policy, if necessary.

SECTION II: COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE SUPPORT AND STRATEGIES

Morgan County Schools will:

1. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the district in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement 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.

Title I - Parent and Family Engagement Policy

SECTION II: COORDINATE AND INTEGRATE SUPPORT AND STRATEGIES (CONTINUED)

2. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other federal, state and local laws and programs. In the design of activities and materials for parents and family members, particular attention shall be given to reaching and involving those who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.

SECTION III: EVALUATE THE POLICY

Morgan County Schools will:

1. Conduct, with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served by Title I, including identifying:
    a. Barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). Families will be surveyed and provided opportunities to identify barriers and possible solutions that would be helpful for families. District and school leaders will work with community partners to offer support for families. Family Resource Youth Service Centers will be part of the planning to reduce barriers.
    b. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers. Input from all stakeholders will be collected to determine needs of families. Input will be provided through phone calls, parent-teacher conferences, survey data, and emails.
    c. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions will be determined from the evaluation of Parent and Family Engagement activities. The district and school will schedule events at the times most requested by families and utilize communication tools most convenient for families to ensure maximum school and family interactions.
2. Use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the district and/or school parent and family engagement policies. Evaluation results will be collected via phone, email, survey, and in-person conversations. Evaluation results will be reviewed during Parent Teacher Community Organization Meetings and School Based Decision Making Committee Meetings.

Title I - Parent and Family Engagement Policy

SECTION IV: INVOLVE PARENTS AT THE SCHOOL LEVEL

Morgan County Schools will:

1. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I, through Family Resource Youth Service Center Advisory Councils. Councils will include parents, students, staff, and community members.
2. Involve parents in the decisions regarding how funds reserved for parent and family engagement are allotted for parental involvement activities at the district and/or school level. Parent involvement for the usage of funds for Parent and Family Engagement Activities will include involving parents in the Needs Assessment for the school and district by providing a variety of ways to offer feedback.

SECTION V: ACCESSIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS [ESSA 1116(F)]

In carrying out Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements Morgan County Schools will:

1. To the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for informed 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 ESSA 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. Translations will be provided in written form and oral form when requested. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled throughout the year and all parent requests for meetings will be honored.
2. Notify parents of this policy in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy will be distributed to parents and made available to parents and members of the local community. This policy will be provided to families in the Code of Conduct Handbook that is provided in an online and print option. This policy will be reviewed with families at the Annual Title I Parent and Family Engagement Meeting.

SECTION VI: POLICY REVIEW AND REVISION

Morgan County Schools will work jointly with parents to review and revise this policy as necessary to meet the changing needs of the parents and the district. Families can provide in-person or written feedback. Families will be regularly surveyed (written and/or in-person) and various forms of data will be utilized to determine the Parent and Family Engagement needs.

Title I - Parent and Family Engagement Policy

REFERENCES:

Section 1118 of Improving America's Schools Act (IASA) of 1994
P. L. 114-95, (Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015)
KRS 157.077; KRS 158.645; KRS 158.6451
KRS 158.865; KRS 158.866; KRS 158.867
20 U.S.C. § 6318

RELATED POLICIES:

03.112; 08.1345; 09.11

RELATED PROCEDURE:

08.13451 AP.1

Adopted/Amended: 6/20/2024
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