Title I Part A Parent and Family Engagement Policy

What is Family Engagement?

The US Department of Education defines Family Engagement as the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including:

(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.

(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.

(D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

LUSD's Family Engagement Vision

Lynwood Unified School District embraces families of all races, ethnicities, and cultures in their engagement as an integral component for the social, emotional, and academic success of all students. All educational partners will be knowledgeable to work collaboratively and respectfully as equal partners by sharing responsibility and leadership to sustain quality family engagement across all schools.

This Policy was adopted by the Lynwood Unified School District in March, 2024 and will be in effect until March, 2025.

1) Purpose of Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

The Lynwood Unified School District (LUSD) has developed this Parent and Family Engagement Policy to support and partner with families. This policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen powerful partnerships with students and families in all LUSD schools. This plan describes LUSD's commitment to engage parents and family members in the education of their children and to build staff capacity to successfully implement family engagement practices designed to meet the district's vision for family engagement.

2) How will parents and family members be involved in the development of this Policy (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][A], and 1116[a][2][F])?

LUSD has developed a written Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy with input from parents and family members of participating children. Parent and family member input was gathered through the needs assessment process which included family surveys and discussion forums. Additional input was gathered from district level advisory committees and other parent advisory groups.

3) How will parents and family members be involved in developing school improvement plans (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][A])?

LUSD will continue to invite all parents and family members annually to take an active role by participating on site decision making councils and advisory committees, as well as, district level advisory committees in order to be involved in the development of school improvement plans. Council and committee members will continue to be trained on their roles and responsibilities.

Parents and family members will continue to provide feedback on areas of strength and improvement of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) as well as, school goals and actions as identified in sites' School Plans for Student Achievement (SPSAs). Parent and family member feedback is also gathered at school meetings/forums, district and school advisory committee meetings, School Site Council meetings, and through other means. The information gathered is used to revise the district's LCAP and the sites' SPSAs.

4) How does the Local Educational Agency (LEA) provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance? Does this include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education (ESSA Section1116 [a][2][B])?

District staff will continue to work collaboratively with site administrators and support teams to plan and implement district-wide parent and family engagement practices that are linked to student achievement. The district administration team will continue to include parent and family engagement during Principals' Meetings and other forums to assist in establishing protocols to ensure family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented (such as, but not limited to, running effective decision making and advisory groups, Coffee with the Principal, Curriculum Nights, and other parent/family information nights/workshops). Though the activities will be site-specific as described in schools' School-Parent Compacts, Parent and Family Engagement Policies, and SPSAs, best practices should be evidenced across all school sites.

In addition, district staff will continue to work as a team to address items related to family engagement to support the district's LCAP, Equity, and Strategic Plans. They will also continue to provide technical assistance for district and site support staff to discuss best practices that will help inform staff on effective family engagement practices such as, but not limited to, Analyzing and Sharing Data with Families, Welcoming Environments, Building Partnerships with Families, and Improving School-Family 2-Way Communication.

5) How will LEAs coordinate or integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, local laws, and programs (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][C], and 1116[e][4])?

LUSD has developed a written Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy with input from parents and family members of participating children. Parent and family member input was gathered through the needs assessment process which included family surveys and discussion forums. Additional input was gathered from district level advisory committees and other parent advisory groups.

6) How will LEAs conduct, with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy on improving academic quality of all schools served under Title I, Part A, and use the finding to design evidence-based strategies (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][D], and 1116[a][2][E])?

To evaluate the effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, LUSD will continue to conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy. Parents and family members will have opportunities to provide feedback. Each site will ensure families have multiple opportunities to provide input by making the family survey and policy input form available both in a digital and paper format. In addition to the annual family survey, there will be other means of providing input such as, but not limited to, LCAP parent survey, district level committee feedback, and/or discussion forums. LUSD will continue to use findings from all data sources to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy so that it reflects the needs of all families.

7) What are the barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by ESSA Section 1116? Please note with particular attention, parents and family members who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][i]):

LUSD will continue to gather input from educational partners through the LCAP survey, family survey, discussion forums, as well as district advisory committees and site decision making councils/advisory committees to evaluate the effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Barriers are identified through this process and actions will be put into place to address the needs of families, such as, take extra measures to reach out to underrepresented families, strengthen welcoming environments, provide notifications in a timely manner, use a variety of communication methods, when possible offer meetings/events at different locations, formats, days of the week, and/or different times, provide child care, ensure information is provided in a language and format easily understood by families, and provide interpretation.

8) What are the needs of parents and family members so that they may assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][ii])?

LUSD will continue to provide families with ongoing educational and leadership opportunities to support families in building stronger and more effective partnerships with school staff, so that they can better understand student academic expectations and learn how to navigate the educational system. These opportunities will be offered via engaging workshops, leadership academies, decision making and advisory group trainings, conferences, and/or events. In addition to face-to-face and/or virtual opportunities, every effort will be made to post resources on the district/site websites, Google Site, and YouTube channel (workshop materials, parent guides/newsletters, at home learning materials, and digital resources) for families to access remotely. Also, the district advisory councils and LCAP Committee will continue to advise the district on matters related to family engagement.

LUSD will continue to ensure families have knowledge of the Parent Volunteer Tiers and access to forms in an effort to increase family engagement.

9) What are the strategies used to support successful school and family interactions (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][iii])?

LUSD will continue to coordinate capacity building opportunities for both families and staff to help strengthen school and family partnerships. District staff will continue to collaborate across departments to provide families with a series of educational opportunities on various topics to help families strengthen school-home partnerships and their interactions with staff. Motivational strategies, as well as Social Emotional Learning (SEL) programs will be utilized to encourage parents and families to participate in capacity building opportunities both at the district and school level.

In addition, LUSD will ensure that systems are put in place for meaningful 2-Way Communication between families and staff, such as, utilizing different communication methods (flyers, AERIES System, social media platforms, district and site websites, and other methods).

10) LEAs provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities. This may include consultation with employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations, or individuals. What technical assistance will be provided to parents (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][A])?

LUSD will coordinate support to assist schools to utilize evidence-based strategies in an effort to design systemic and more effective family engagement practices, programs, and services as outlined in the *Dual Capacity Framework for Family-School Partnerships*, US Department of Education , as well as, *Family Engagement Toolkit, California Department of Education.* Parents and family members will also continue to be provided with technical support in the areas of parent leadership and advocacy through a train-the-trainer program model to address the needs of families.

11) How will LEAs reserve 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds to carry out parent and family engagement requirements (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][A])?

LUSD reserves at least one percent of the Title I, Part A allocation to support district-wide parent and family engagement activities. Family engagement activities are included in the district's LCAP. District level staff are also in place to support parent and family engagement efforts.

12) How will LEAs allot funds for parent and family engagement (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][B])?

Funds reserved by the district for parent and family engagement activities are used to support the activities and strategies addressed in this policy, including funding Parent Involvement Specialists. Parent Involvement Specialists will continue to provide information, resources, and professional learning on best practices regarding engaging families such as participating in community events for families, connecting families to resources, and organizing meetings, activities, and workshops to engage families.

13) How will LEAs distribute 90 percent of the 1 percent reserve to schools (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][C])?

Using federal funding formulas and data from CALPADs, sites will be ranked and ordered. Funds are distributed among the sites while prioritizing high-need sites.

14) How will LEAs provide assistance to parents and families in understanding the state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I, Part A requirements, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators to help all students succeed (ESSA Section 1116[e][1])?

Information and resources will continue to be provided to parents and family members on strategies to assist them in supporting their children's at-home learning on topics, such as but not limited to, Preparing for a Parent-Teacher Conference, Understanding the Common Core State Standards, and Understanding State and Local Assessments. The assistance will come in the form of workshops as part of the Parent and Family Education Plan developed by LUSD's Parent Involvement Specialists. Parent Involvement Specialists will also continue to collaborate with other departments, personnel, and parents to provide additional learning experiences that are enriching for families.

15) How will LEAs provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literary training and using technology (ESSA Section 1116[e][2])?

LUSD will continue to work collaboratively with parents and family members to identify programs and services needed to support families in helping their children succeed. Parent and family workshops that promote literacy (reading and writing) will be included in the Parent Educational Plan. Additional learning opportunities for families to attend conferences and/or trainings that will support them in helping their children meet academic and personal goals will be offered when possible.

In addition, Parent Involvement Specialists will continue to collaborate with the Technology Services Department to provide technology related workshops that support families in understanding the 21st Century, such as but not limited to, tools and knowledge to engage in virtual platforms, digital citizenship, educational websites, and applications.

16) How will LEAs educate teachers, instructional support staff, principals, and other school leaders and staff, with the assistance of parents and families, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and families, and reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners, implementing and coordinating parent and family programs to build ties between parents and families, and the school (ESSA Section 1116[e][3])?

LUSD will continue to provide professional development for staff and families in the areas of Cultural Proficiency, Building Trusting Relationships, Welcoming Environments, and other areas of need in an effort to build effective home-school partnerships.

In addition, LUSD will continue to partner with parents and family members to address strengths and challenges of existing family engagement practices to provide recommendations that will contribute to creating stronger trusting relationships and activities/programs that are more effectively connected to student learning.

17) How will LEAs coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement programs with other federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent and family resource centers that encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children (ESSA Section 1116[e][4])?

LUSD under the direction of the Equity, Access, and Instructional Services Department will continue to support each school site as they develop their SPSA which include goals, actions, strategies, and expenditures for parent and family engagement, as well as goals to improve academic achievement. School sites will be provided with SPSA support through training provided to the administration and support staff, student and parent representatives on the requirements of the SPSA development. The Equity, Access, and Instructional Services Department will review the sites' SPSAs to ensure parent and family engagement goals are planned for and supported with activities, materials, and resources.

In addition, every school site has identified a Parent Resource Center to provide a place for families to participate more actively in activities such as decision making council meetings, advisory committee meetings, and workshops, as well as, accessing resources for social services, and technology. Site staff and volunteers will receive additional support to assist them in fully implementing their centers.

18) How will LEAs ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand (ESSA Section 1116[e][5])?

LUSD will continue to communicate with families in a format and language that they can understand using a variety of platforms to reach as many families as possible. Notifications will be shared via, but not limited to, district and school websites, school messaging systems, newsletters, flyers, and social media postings. Hard copies of materials will be available.

In addition, site support staff will assist with communication between home and school and other parent and family engagement efforts.

19) How will LEAs provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section (ESSA Section 1116[e][14])?

LUSD will continue to support sites by providing schools with support staff who assist with home-school communication as well as connect families to additional resources, available both at school and in the community.

In addition, Parent Involvement Specialists will continue to provide the sites with a monthly family education calendar, along with resources, to be shared with the parents and families at each site, that will inform parents and families on upcoming educational opportunities and strategies that they can use to support their children at home.

20) How will the LEA ensure that the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is in a format and language that is easy for parents and families to understand (ESSA Section 1116[f])?

LUSD will continue to make this policy available by notifying families on the various ways to access the policy such as notifications, all-call messages, site newsletters, Parent and Student Handbook, postings on the district's and schools' website, parent resource centers, and annual Title I meetings. Parents and family members are welcome and encouraged to provide ongoing feedback regarding this policy at any time by submitting written comments to district or school sites.

LUSD will continue to ensure the policy is accessible to all families in a format and language that parents and family members can understand.