



Richland County School District One Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Parent and Family Engagement

Family Engagement is the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, which help ensure:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting with 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.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school Title 1 plans that are developed each year. All parents/guardians are invited to attend planning meetings at their child's school and to attend the Office of Federal and State Programs (OFSP) planning meetings. At these meetings feedback is obtained from various stakeholders to review and revise the school and district parent and family engagement policy, as well as gaining feedback on activities written in the federal grant. Family and community members have opportunities to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students reach academic achievement goals.

Building Capacity

The district will build school and parent capacity to ensure effective engagement of parents, family members and the community in supporting partnerships among the Title I schools. Collaboratively, teachers and families will set student academic goals to be addressed through at-home learning activities and strategies. The OFSP will work through its Title I schools to assist parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to student learning and progress. The OFSP will provide parents with information regarding the Title I program at the district level. Literacy events, classes, and workshops for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for South Carolina students will be offered at each Title I school.

Schoolwide Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent engagement activities. Parent and Family Engagement Specialists coordinate with teachers and parents to provide resources and materials as well as academic events to help parents work with their children at home. Information will be sent to parents in a format and in a language the families can understand. OFSP will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with other Federal, State, and local programs. The OFSP will conduct training during the school year for Parent and Family Engagement Specialists to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build relationships with parents and the community. This information will be shared with school faculty and staff as appropriate. Each Title I school provides a training to school staff on how they can focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

Title I schools will host an Annual meeting to inform families about how Title I funds are used at their child's school. During this meeting families will learn about the requirements of Title I and their right to be involved and to know about the teaching credentials of their child's teacher(s). School staff will make reasonable accommodations to families to schedule parent meetings, including parent conferences, at different times during the day. Timely information about the Title I program in the district will be provided to families in a variety of formats. Title I schools will provide opportunities for families to attend regular meetings to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. District stakeholder meetings will be held throughout the school year. All families are welcomed and encouraged to attend their child's school or the district level meetings.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Richland County School District One (RCSD1) Office of Federal and State Programs has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement in the district's Title I schools. This plan describes the district's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

Consistent with Section 1116, the district will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of the federal law. Additionally, the OFSP will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools as well as notifications and resources to help improve and strengthen family engagement. It is the belief of the school district that when schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more.