St. Martin Parish Parent & Family Engagement Policy

What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Our program's goals are to ensure:

- Parents are recognized as their children's primary teachers and nurturers and implement intentional strategies to engage parents in their children's learning and development and support parent-child relationships, including specific strategies for father engagement;
- Our program develops relationships with parents and structure services to encourage trust and respectful, ongoing two-way communication between staff and parents to create welcoming program environments that incorporate the unique cultural, ethnic, and linguistic backgrounds of families in the program and community;
- Our program collaborates with families in a family partnership process that identifies needs, interests, strengths, goals, and services and resources that support family well-being, including family safety, health, and economic stability;
- Our program provides parents with opportunities to participate in the program as employees or volunteers;
- Our program conducts family engagement services in the family's preferred language, or through an interpreter, to the extent possible, and ensure families have the opportunity to share personal information in an environment in which they feel safe; and,
- Procedures are implemented for teachers, home visitors, and family support staff to share information with each other, as appropriate and consistent with the requirements in part 1303 subpart C, of this chapter; FERPA; or IDEA, to ensure coordinated family engagement strategies with children and families in the classroom, home, and community.

About the Parent & Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening students' academic, physical and social-emotional growth, the St. Martin Parish School District has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe St Martin Parish School District's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement and provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the SMPSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b)and include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

The SMPSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and school Parent and Family Engagement Policy are updated annually. Parents are given several opportunities to provide input and feedback. A district Parent Advisory Council is established each year, with parents from each Title I school, who are able to

provide feedback at district meetings. In the spring of each year, parents are invited via flyers, newsletters, school and the district website and the local paper to attend plan revision meetings at their child's school as well as the district office. Input and feedback are collected for the revision of the Parent and Family engagement policies and school compacts.

Parents are also given opportunities for input through the annual Title I Parent and Family engagement survey, and additional surveys/evaluations provided at all Title I parent meetings and workshops. School websites encourage parents to contact the school's parent liaison with suggestions at any time during the school year. All parental feedback is collected, documented and used in the annual updating of policies. The district Parent and Family Engagement policy is posted on the SMPSD's website and each school's website. Each Title I school will post their Parent and Family Engagement policy on their individual school website, and will have hard copies available in the front office, and parent resource areas.

Building Capacity

…. of Parents

St. Martin Parish School District will work as a district and through its Title I schools to assist parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. St. Martin Parish School District will provide workshops for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Louisiana students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these workshops will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I school's newsletter.

St. Martin Parish School District will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and ways to help parents work with

their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in other languages. To assist parents with understanding the online Parent Command Center and other digital educational resources, the St. Martin Parish technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by schools.

St. Martin Parish School District will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Readiness meetings and activities so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. St. Martin Parish School District will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources. All elementary/primary schools provide PreK classes for the district.

SMPSD will support all Title I schools in their efforts to provide at least one fall and one spring parent workshop focused on providing meaningful home learning that will promote student success.

Building Capacity

…. School Staff

St. Martin Parish School District will conduct two training sessions during the school year for principals and/or Title I facilitators to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent and family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These training sessions will occur in August and June of each year.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year,

school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

Strengthening Our Schools

The district parent and family involvement staff will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parent and family involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent and family involvement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools receive notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen parent and family involvement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and/or school Title I contacts to review parent and family involvement plans and activities.
Additionally, the district will convene an annual training/meeting in the fall for principals and/or school contacts to review parent and family involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parent and family involvement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year. A School Compact and Parent and Family Involvement plan checklist/timeline will be sent to all Title I school contacts to ensure compliance.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend the meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

Accessibility

In carrying out the family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Federal Programs Director will communicate and collaborate with other Federal program staff to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents of English Learners, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the St. Martin Parish school district will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the family engagement policy and school family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey. Beginning in April, each Title I school will provide various ways for parents to complete a survey regarding the family engagement policy and activities for both the district and the school level. These surveys will be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. The St. Martin Parish school district will use findings from school meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to family participation, and to revise its family engagement policies.

Reservation of Funds

St. Martin Parish School District will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY26 to carry out the family involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, St. Martin Parish School District will distribute 100% of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level parent involvement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist Title I schools in developing an adequate family involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will give parents several opportunities to provide suggestions and input on how these funds are used. School and district websites encourage parents to submit suggestions online to the school's Title I Parent and Family

engagement liaison. Surveys may be conducted at all Title I workshops and meetings, giving parents opportunities for input on the use of parent engagement funds. All suggestions and comments are reviewed by school principals and district leaders to determine areas of need for the parent and family engagement budget.

School Improvement Meetings

SAVE THE DATE: June, 2026

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the St. Martin Parish School District as well as review and provide input into the district Parent and Family engagement policy and the Comprehensive Improvement plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent to parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the district website, school , and social media.

SAVE THE DATE: March 2026

During this week, Title schools will afford parents the opportunity to participate in round table discussions to review the school-wide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policy, the school-parent compact, as well as to provide input on the parent and family engagement budget and activities. Title I schools will send notification to parents about the date, time and opportunities of the meeting. Information regarding this will also be made available on the school's website and social media.

Parents can also give input on the use of Title I funds to support parent and family engagement activities through the annual district survey during this time. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Title I Department Contact Information

If you need to contact the Title I department, you may reach them @:

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