

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Board of Education believes that positive parent and family engagement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. Parent and family engagement may take place either in the classroom or during extra-curricular activities. However, the Board also encourages parent and family engagement at home (e.g., planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework “contracts” between parents, family members and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to develop a home-school communications program in an effort to encourage all forms of parent and family engagement.

Title I Parent and Family Engagement – District Level Policy

Consistent with the parent and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and its reauthorization in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child’s education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parent and family engagement procedures, as further required by federal law.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication, involving student academic learning and other school activities.

At a minimum, parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents and family members:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; and
- 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.

The federal definition of the term “parents” refers to a natural parent, legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).

District and school level Title I parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures will, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including those who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children).

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As further required by federal law, parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the district's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents and family members also will participate in the process for developing either a comprehensive or targeted "support and improvement plan" when the school their child attends is identified by the State as needing this plan.

Parent and family member participation in development of district wide Title I plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff will undertake the following actions to ensure parent and family member involvement in the development of the district wide Title I plan:

- hold meetings at flexible times and/or in highly accessible places (such as, but not limited to, the school library and cafeteria).
- survey parents by phone, mail, or e-mail.

Development of school level parent and family engagement approaches

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all district schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided coordination, technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. As appropriate to meet individual local needs, the superintendent will:

- hold meetings at flexible times and/or in highly accessible places (such as, but not limited to, the school library and cafeteria).
- survey parents by phone, mail, or e-mail.
- conduct meaningful consultations with employers, business leaders, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

Building capacity for parental involvement

To build parent capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content, challenging academic standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, how to monitor their child's progress and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

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- conduct curriculum based workshops.
 - conduct parent-teacher conferences and bilingual information nights.
 - distribute training materials, and/or train parents to help other parents understand the role they can play in helping their child.
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work to improve their child's academic achievement such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy). To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:
- provide literacy programs/workshops that bond families around reading and using the public library.
 - provide information about the essential components of reading or math instruction to enable parents to support the instructional practices used by the teacher.
 - provide information or training in the use of the Internet to enable families to access their children's homework; communicate with teachers; and review information posted about schools and other opportunities to promote student achievement.
3. Educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contributions and on how to:
- reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners;
 - implement and coordinate parent programs; and
 - build ties between parents and the schools

To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

- building principals will involve parents in developing this training, in order to improve its effectiveness. Surveys will be developed and distributed to parents for feedback.
4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable in a language the parents can understand.

Coordination of parental involvement strategies

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements with parental involvement strategies adopted in connection with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. It will do this by:

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- conducting workshops for parents
- developing resource centers or partnering with outside agencies

Review of district wide parent and family engagement policy

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate staff will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, identification of the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, strategies to support successful school and family interactions; and the revision of parent and family engagement policies necessary for more effective involvement. To facilitate this review the district will conduct the following activities:

- have families complete an end of year Parent Involvement Survey at each Title I building. The survey will be available in multiple languages so all families have the ability to participate. Bilingual teachers and support staff will also be available for translation should a family member require assistance in completing the survey.
- Survey results will be reviewed by each building principal and shared with the Title I Coordinator.

Cross-ref: 4010, Equivalence in Instruction

Ref: 20 USC §§6318(a)(2); 7801(38), Every Student Succeeds Act (§1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act)

____ U.S. Department of Education, *Parental Involvement, Title I, Part A, Non-Regulatory Guidance*, April 23, 2004

Policy Adopted:

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Title I Parent and Family Engagement – School Level Approach

The (*name of school*) recognizes that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning. We encourage parents and family members to be actively involved in their child's education at school and to become full partners in school educational planning and operations. Consistent with the parent involvement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, reauthorized by the No child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA):

1. The Building Principal and appropriate staff shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I programs, and to explain Title I requirements and the right of the parents to be involved. All parents of children participating in a Title I program will be invited to the meeting.
2. The school staff shall offer a flexible number of meetings to provide parents the opportunity to meet with school staff and otherwise participate in their child's education. These meetings shall be held at flexible times (e.g., morning or evening) and/or in highly accessible places such as public housing projects, etc.
3. The school will provide parents with timely information about Title I programs. School staff will also describe and explain the curriculum in use at the school, the types of academic assessment that will be used to measure student progress and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Parents may also request regular meetings with school staff to make suggestions and to participate, as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their child. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practical.
4. The school staff shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy.

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Student Academic Achievement School-Parent Compact**

To help our children achieve, we agree to abide by the following conditions during the (*insert school year*) school year:

School Responsibilities

The school will:

- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
- Hold parent-teacher conferences during these conferences, this compact will be discussed as it relates to your child's academic achievement;
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their child's progress;
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff; and
- Provide parents with opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and to observe classroom activities.
- Ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between parents and family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that the parents and family members can understand.

Parents' Responsibilities

We as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- *Monitor my child's attendance;*
- *Make sure that homework is completed*
- *Limit amount of television my child watches;*
- Volunteer in my child's school;
- Participate, as appropriate, in decisions regarding my children's education;
- Promote positive use of my child's extracurricular time; and
- Stay informed about my child's education and communicate with the school regularly.

Student Responsibilities

As a student, I will share the responsibility to improve my grades, and agree to:

- Do homework every day and ask for help when needed;
- Read at least 20 minutes a day outside of school and
- Give to my parents all notices and information received by me from my school every day.

School

Parent

Student

Date

Date

Date

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