

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Category: Priority/Required by Law for all Title I Districts

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, name of Mascoma Valley Regional School District (MVRSD) receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

Mascoma Valley Regional School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- Provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the LEA will submit any parent comments with the plan when the LEA submits the plan to the state department of education.
- The LEA will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- A. families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- B. families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- C. families 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; and
- D. other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The District is committed to engaging families in a structured, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs and Targeted Assistance Plan. This includes providing opportunities for regular meetings, upon request, where families can offer suggestions and participate in decisions related to their child's education. The District will respond to such input as promptly as possible.

To support planning for the upcoming school year, MVRSD conducts an Annual Review at the end of each school year. During this review, families are invited to share feedback on the effectiveness of current programming, the Title I events calendar, and needs for future events. They are also encouraged to provide input on the Title I Family Compact, the overall Title I plan, and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Feedback is collected through open discussions during the Annual Review meetings as well as through Title I School Surveys.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

MVRSD will offer coordination, support, and technical assistance to help Title I schools plan and implement effective parent and family engagement strategies. The goal is to strengthen school capacity in building partnerships that support student achievement and overall school success. This support may include:

- Collaborating with school leadership teams to develop or revise school-level parent and family engagement policies and School-Parent Compacts;
- Hosting workshops or coaching sessions to guide schools in planning and evaluating Title I family engagement activities;
- Offering consultation with community partners, such as local businesses, health agencies, and nonprofit organizations, to support outreach and resource sharing;
- Ensuring schools have access to templates, guidance documents, and planning tools aligned with Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The District's Family Engagement Liaison and Assistant Liaison will administer an evaluation on an annual basis, during the third quarter. This process is supported by the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA). The evaluation includes a review of parent surveys, staff surveys, student achievement data, and participation records. The district will compile the findings into a comprehensive report and share the report with the evaluation committee, school leadership, and parent advisory groups for feedback. The district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The District employs both a Family Engagement Liaison and a Family Engagement Liaison Assistant—two dedicated positions responsible for developing, planning, and implementing events that support family engagement. At the review meeting at the end of the school year, the budget will be shared with the family members of children who are served in Title 1, Part A funds. Parents and families will be provided with the opportunity to provide feedback regarding their needs and how the funds are utilized.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

To the extent feasible and appropriate, the District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs with other federal, state, and local initiatives, including public preschool programs. The District is committed to conducting activities—such as parent resource centers—that encourage and support families in actively participating in their children’s education by leveraging strong community partnerships.

Key resources and collaborators include, but are not limited to:

- District Social Worker, McKinney-Vento Liaison, and Foster Care Point of Contact
- School Counselors in each school (to assist with transitions)
- District Principal Meetings
- District Preschool Coordinator
- Human Service Coordinators from each town within the District (Canaan, Enfield, Dorchester, Grafton, and Orange)
- Waypoint NH and TLC Family Resource Center

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

With support from its Title I schools, MVRSD will build the capacity of families to engage meaningfully in their child’s education by providing training, materials, and resources. These efforts aim to strengthen home-school partnerships and equip families with the tools they need to support academic achievement. Specific strategies include:

- Technology Support: Families are given access to our Student Information System, ALMA. Building Administration and their Administrative Assistants will help identify any technological challenges for families and inform the Family Engagement Liaison for additional resources and training.
- Understanding Academic Standards: Building principals send home letters outlining upcoming assessments. District-wide assessments are also highlighted in the monthly newsletter from the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment.
- Title I Requirements: A detailed overview of Title I, Part A is shared with families during the Annual Title I Meeting. This meeting includes information on parent rights, school responsibilities, and available resources.
- Monitoring Student Progress: Teachers and Title I staff regularly communicate student progress through the Student Information System or via paper reports. This ensures parents are informed about academic performance and areas needing improvement.
- Family Engagement Events: Fall Open Houses allow teachers and families to connect early in the year. These events focus on building relationships and sharing classroom and grade-level academic standards and expectations.
- Ongoing Communication: Schools maintain consistent communication with families through daily folders (elementary), emails, phone calls, and scheduled conferences.
- Additional support activities may include workshops on academic strategies, parent education nights, access to online learning tools, printed guides, and equipment as needed to support learning at home.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

MVRSD will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value

and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and schools by:

- Providing professional development for teachers, principals, and other educators to prioritize family communication and engagement
- Review feedback and data gathered from families during the Annual Title I Meeting and use it to inform improvements
- Include representatives from community-based organizations in stakeholder engagement meetings
- Ensuring the the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA) will be included on all communications sent to families regarding Title I programs and events
- Ensure the District continues its practice of offering flexible parent-teacher conference formats, including in-person, virtual (Google Meet), and phone options
- Invite parent and family feedback in creation and review of engagement related policy and practice.

To ensure effective implementation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment (CIA) will carry out the following responsibilities:

- Supervise and support the Family Engagement Liaison and Family Engagement Liaison Assistant
- Seek input from all stakeholders on professional development for teachers, principals, and other educators to prioritize family communication and engagement
- Oversee the surveys used to gather feedback from families, compile data gathered from families during the Annual Title I Meeting and use it to inform improvements
- Approve reasonable and necessary expenses related to family engagement activities (e.g., transportation and child care) to remove barriers to participation in school-related meetings and training
- Include representatives from community-based organizations in stakeholder engagement meetings

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes from Annual Review Meeting. The policy was recommended to the school board for adoption on May 28, 2025. Once approved by the board, the policy will be distributed to all families of participating Title I, Part A children at the Title I Annual Meeting in the first quarter of the school year.

To School Board 8/12/03

Adopted: 8/26/03

Revisions to School Board: 2/10/15

Adopted: 2/24/15

Reviewed/1st Reading: 1/26/21; 2nd Reading/Adopted: 2/9/21

Reviewed/1st Reading: 5/28/25; 2nd Reading/Adopted: 6/10/25