

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Richland Elementary School

2025 - 2026

Updated: 9/17/2025



In support of strengthening student academic achievement,

Richland Elementary School 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(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Richland Elementary School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, 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 school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
Parent and 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 ESSA.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Richland Elementary School will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Parents from PTO and the school community provide input on the parent and family engagement programs. Surveys are sent to all school families attending the Annual Title I Meeting to get feedback on family concerns and needs. The day following the Title I Annual meeting, surveys are sent to all families within our school. Parent survey responses are analyzed to determine which events parents found helpful and what they would recommend for the future. (Note: For 2025-26, a Title I Parent meeting was held on September 4, 2025 and a Spring Family Engagement Night (possibly a STEM Night) will also occur). Survey feedback is considered when creating the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Richland Elementary School I will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

A Title I Meeting was held for families on September 4, 2025 at 6:00p.m. For those not able to attend in person, the Title I resources discussed will be posted on our school website under the Title tab.

COMMUNICATIONS

Richland Elementary School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

The Parent and Family Engagement Plan policy will be posted on our webpage under the Title tab. Information about the annual Title I Meeting was communicated to all families via an invitation sent home, as well as on Facebook.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Richland Elementary School will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

A Title I Parent Survey was included in the Annual Title I Meeting presentation to solicit feedback regarding the Parent-School Compact. Feedback from the returned surveys is utilized to make changes to the Compact and the Title I program in general.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Richland Elementary School will take the following actions to involve the families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

Budgetary information will be shared at the annual Title I Meeting. The Title I allocations will be shared, and families will be notified about how funds are spent. On the parent survey, parents will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the budget. They will be encouraged to make recommendations for the use of the funds.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Richland Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Richland Elementary School partners with a number of agencies to provide support to our students' families. LEAPS and Bounds is our afterschool program that provides homework help and supplemental activities for our at-risk students. LEAPS also offers parent events for families to be involved. Additionally, all students have access to the Homework Hotline, which provides daily homework help. During the summer of 2025, students had the option to attend Summer Learning Camps to reinforce grade level learning with a strategic review of the most critical foundational skills from the previous grade. Eligible students will also participate in TN ALL Corps grant tutoring during the 2025-26 school year. Parents are encouraged to be active participants in our school's PTO as well as attend school events. In addition to academic support, Richland Elementary School also seeks to provide mental/emotional support to students. RES partners with Health Connect to provide school-based therapy to students with parent permission. Students were also able to participate in a free summer feeding program in the Summer 2025 to receive meals all summer.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Richland Elementary School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, 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 the school by:

Teachers have access to many programs to build their capacity as educators. Some of these came with training, to better communicate with families and include them as instructional partners in their children's education. All teachers have access to School Status, a parent communication tool which allows parents to send phone calls, emails, and texts (including attachments and pictures) to families. RES has been designated as a Trauma Informed school. With this designation, the school implements a Trauma Informed Plan and provides training to teachers regarding ACEs and trauma informed strategies. Teachers at RES receive annual training to better understand how trauma affects students and their families. Many of our students are considered at-risk, and the training helps teachers understand how to be more successful when working with students and families affected in this way. Teachers implement high quality instructional materials in ELA and math and have been trained on all resources.

Richland Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

Wherever possible, handouts and information will be provided in Spanish for the small population of families needing it. School status messages are used to send text messages to families needing translation into Spanish or other languages. Teachers make use of Google translate during instruction to help our ELL students be more successful. Whenever possible, child care is offered during Parent Night events to encourage families with young children to attend.

