



CJUSD Family Engagement Policy

2025 . 2026

The Colton Joint Unified School District (CJUSD) acknowledges that parents and families play an integral role in the education and development of their children. Understanding that, CJUSD strives to encourage family engagement and provide families with opportunities to share their feedback in decision making. This policy describes the family engagement strategies and activities to support active and meaningful engagement of families. When schools, families and communities work together to support learning, children are more likely to become life-long learners, do better in school and further their education.

CJUSD with parents and family members has jointly developed, mutually agreed upon and will distribute to parents and family members of participating children, a written copy of the CJUSD Family Engagement Policy. The Family Engagement Manager sent out an open invitation to all of the CJUSD community to participate in a collaboration meeting which was held on February 13, 2025. This CJUSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy was developed jointly with parents and community members who have participated in: African American Parent Advisory Committee (AAPAC), District English Language Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC), District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC), Dual Immersion Parent Network (DIPN), Parent Leadership workshops, School Site Councils (SSC), the English Learner Advisory Committees (ELAC), etc.

CJUSD staff will meet annually in the winter of every school year to discuss the district's Family Engagement Policy. Parents will be part of open conversations about best practices to engage families and build relationships with CJUSD

personnel to enhance the manner in which they actively participate in the education of their children. The policy was first developed with families in February - March, 2024 by gathering diverse voices whose input intends to represent all of CJUSD families. Subsequently, a team of parents will participate in an annual revision of the policy.

Parents and family members are involved throughout the year in the development of the CJUSD Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) through a series of dedicated meetings of the LCAP Parent Committee (LCAP PC). The LCAP PC meets with the Director of School Improvement and Accountability, the Family Engagement Manager -and when available with other district administrators- to participate in the development, monitoring and evaluation of the LCAP. Parents and Families support the CJUSD improvement plans by being partners with us in the education of their children. Together with families, there is analysis of student achievement data, summary of conclusions and identification of needs. There is also opportunity to determine the effectiveness of current improvement strategies to determine critical aspects that influence student achievement. The process also includes determination of achievement goals and strategies and fiscal resources to meet such goals. The plan includes indication of personnel responsible, the proposed expenditures and the sources of funds that will support the implementation of the LCAP. CJUSD aims to incorporate parent recommendations in the LCAP before it is presented to the Board of Education.

CJUSD offers district level parent meetings and workshops which build the capacity of families to support the educational process of their children. Amongst organizations which participate in the district level workshops: CJUSD colleagues with relevant expertise to inform families, Crafton Hills College, University of California Riverside, San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, and San Bernardino Valley College. Philanthropic organizations include the Lion's Club, San Bernardino Community Action Partnership.

CJUSD supports parents' efforts to be engaged in their child's education by providing a variety of workshops and family curriculum events at the District level to help parents understand the state standards, assignments, academic assessments, grading and monitoring student progress; including postsecondary educational options and FAFSA application. CJUSD has a Parent Portal for parents to approach their child's education in a proactive manner; closely monitoring grades and attendance and reaching out to teachers and counselors as needed. Parent teacher conferences are scheduled at given times of the year as well as when necessary to provide opportunities for parents to work with schools to improve the achievement of their students.

CJUSD offers meaningful engagement opportunities to parents and family members through the District Parent Advisory Committee, the District English Learner Advisory Committee, District Workshops for Dual Immersion Families, Parent Workshops at San Bernardino Valley College, Family Engagement Networks with SBCSS, ODYSSEY, Incoming 7th and Incoming 9th Parent Orientations, Youth Mental Health First Aid certification, QPR Suicide Prevention, Recorded materials regarding state exams, Parent Leadership workshops, book clubs with Spanish speaking parents and English speaking parents, and supports other personnel the LCAP PC.

The topics brought to families throughout the year at DELAC and DPAC are intentionally balanced to meet the needs of families with elementary, middle and high school students: College Admission, Importance of GPA, Mathematics for STEM Careers, Soft Skills and Time Management, Drug Awareness, Communication strategies to effectively communicate with children and others, i-Ready, importance of reading at home, MAPS, vocational exploration, A-G, FAFSA, Dream Act, Integrated Pathways at the high schools, and other topics that are of interest to families throughout the school year. How to have a successful parent-teacher conference, how to type an effective, clear email to educators, how to use the Parent Portal, Financial Aid, etc.

District parent meetings and other workshops are conducted twice. In the morning in Spanish and in the evening in English. Spanish speaking families are offered the ability to join meetings and workshops in person or virtually via Webex. Evening meetings are offered virtually to English speaking families. English speaking families are given the opportunity to join the Spanish morning sessions with interpretation as needed. Furthermore, all district level parent meetings and workshops are recorded on Webex. If requested, families are provided with the link to specific meetings which they have special interest in. The unification of communication platforms at district level as it sends out messages and communications is important to ensure outreach to all families. Preparing audiovisual tutorials which onboards current parents and incoming new parents regarding how to use Parent Square, inclusive of how to decide their settings, and enhance awareness regarding the Parent Square mobile app.

CJUSD provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other supports necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within CJUSD in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, and how this may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic partners, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. To do this, the Family Engagement Manager develops and manages all the necessary tools and materials for school sites to have functioning English Learner Advisory Committees. This is done through a Google Classroom which the Director of Language Support Services and the Family Engagement Manager utilize to assign site tasks as they provide the necessary materials in English and Spanish to meet such tasks. This Google Classroom is also the depository for each site's ELAC compliance evidence materials.

In the ~~fall~~ winter of every school year, the CJUSD Family Engagement Policy will include families and parents in the evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy on improving academic quality of all its schools. This evaluation will be receptive to the needs of the moment and with a lens of inclusion of the needs of

every CJUSD learner. The group of participants will decide if revisions to the Family Engagement Policy are necessary.

The school and district staff identify barriers to parent participation by talking to them when they are on campus, hosting conversations at site meetings and through surveys. Annually, the school hosts conversations with their ELAC and SSC on the family engagement ideas, including how families can assist with the learning needs of their children and strategies to support successful school to family interactions. Additionally, during the site needs assessments, gaps in parent understanding have been identified to assist in the implementation of strategies and services to build understanding. Barriers such as transportation have been addressed through holding virtual parent meetings. Transportation barriers have been addressed by holding meetings in a hybrid, virtual or in person format; linguistic barriers have been addressed by holding meetings in different languages at different times to accommodate linguistic needs. CJUSD disseminates instructions for families to configure and fully use Parent Square to benefit from the communications that the district sends out to them. Audio visual materials as well as PDF infographics will be made available to newly enrolled families as well as to current families during the annual distribution of materials as each new school year begins.

The CJUSD Family Engagement Policy is evaluated annually. Based on the needs of the moment, the voice of parents and the experience of CJUSD, those who participate in the revision of the policy will discern more effective parental involvement and to decide if revisions to the Family Engagement Policy are necessary.

Parents are involved in the activities of the school served under Title 1 through the English Learner Advisory Committees and school Site Councils. Parents are involved in the review of Title 1 strategies and activities through the review of data, the discussion of its effectiveness and the recommendation to improve, adjust or remove the activities. Additionally, families are involved in the discussion,

recommendation and approval of the site Title 1 budgets and family engagement activities.

CJUSD conducted its annual review of its Family Engagement Policy jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I Part A programs on 02.13.2025. CJUSD will annually distribute the policy to all parents and family members of participating Title I Part A students.