Explorer Academy
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

District-School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Explorer Academy
2025-2026
Revised: 10/7/2025

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy** receive Title I, Part A funds and 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 Sections 1116(a)(2), (b), and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district-school's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy agree to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The district school will 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.
- The district school will work to ensure that the required parent and family engagement policy meets the Title I, Part A requirements, and includes as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The district-school will incorporate this district-school parent and family engagement policy into its district plan.
- The district school will involve parents, 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 targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
- The district school will update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents 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 parents understand.

- If the district-school plan for Title I, Part A is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to Department of Public Instruction.
- The district school will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
  Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
    - *Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning,*
    - *Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school,*
    - *Parents 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*
    - *Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.*

<u>Required District-School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components</u>

The district-school parent and family engagement policy includes a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components:

- **Jointly Developed Policy and Plans**
  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district school plan, and in the development and review of support and improvement plans:
    - *Invite one parent/Title I school in the district to take part in the development of the district* Explorer Academy *parental engagement plan.*
    - *Incorporate suggestions from parent surveys in the parental engagement plan to design strategies for more effective parental engagement.*

- **Annual Title I Meeting**
  Explorer Academy will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.
    - Explorer Academy *will conduct a meeting annually about the school's Title I program.*

- **Technical Assistance**
  Jan Anderson will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and

implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- *Fargo Public Schools will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents in all schools with Title I programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.*

- **Annual Evaluation**
  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will take the following actions to 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 its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and, if necessary, to revise its parent and family engagement policies.
  - *Inform and invite parents to school review, and school improvement meetings.*
  - *Hold meetings at times when parents can attend.*

- **Reservation of Funds (only applicable to districts with Title I allocations of $500,000 or more)**
  If applicable, **Fargo Public Schools and** Explorer Academy will involve the parents and family members 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 and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.
  - Explorer Academy *will provide opportunities for parents to brainstorm new ideas for parent engagement activities.*

- **Coordination of Services**
  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement **programs and activities** with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and **programs such as *Head Start, Even Start, and other programs*** that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. In addition, the district-school will educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other staff in the value of parent contributions and in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; implement and coordinate parent programs; and build ties between parents and schools. The coordination of services and the building of staff capacity will be done by:
  - *Holding Title I parent information meetings.*
  - *Holding Title I training sessions.*

- *Developing parent resources.*
- *Sending home "tip sheets" for parents with strategies to use and suggestions for success in school.*

- **Building Capacity of Parents**
  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:
  - The challenging state academic standards.
  - The state and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments.
  - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
  - How to monitor their child's progress.
  - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.

  Explorer Academy *will collaborate with parents to integrate parental engagement activities into the school.*

  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will provide, if requested, opportunities for regular parent and family meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such request as soon as practically possible, by:
  - *Inviting all parents to information meetings.*

- **Building Capacity of District-School Staff**
  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in 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 schools by:
  - *Holding Title I parent information meetings*
  - *Holding Title I training sessions*
  - *Informing parents of available training sessions in the community*
  - *Sending home "tip sheets" for parents with strategies to use and suggestions for success in school*

  Fargo Public Schools and Explorer Academy will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:
  - *Scheduling individual meetings*
  - *Requesting resources by phone or email*

- **School-Parent Compact**
  Explorer Academy will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement

and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- Explorer Academy *will develop a school-parent compact by inviting parents to collaborate at meetings and training sessions.*

- **Communications**

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

  These items will be provided by:
  - *Annually distributing the parent and family engagement policy to parents through the* Explorer Academy *Title I Handbook.*

Building Capacity for Involvement

The district school Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the district-school, in meaningful consultation with its parents, choose to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of ESSA. Indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) parent and family engagement policy components the district school will implement family-school partnerships:

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents.
- Maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement
- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

These activities will be implemented throughout the school year to enhance the engagement of parents. To maximize participation, activities will occur on a variety of days and at a variety of times.

Adoption

This district-school 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 at the Explorer Academy Annual Title I meeting on 10/31/2025 from 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.