



Office of Federal and State Programs
120 East Smith Avenue
Darlington, SC 29532

October 13, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Your participation in your child's education is important to Darlington County School District as well as an integral part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). We are pleased to say that our District Title I Parent Involvement Policy expresses a commitment to a quality education for every child.

The purpose of the District Policy is to explain how the District, parents and the Title I schools will share the responsibility for improving academic achievement and developing a partnership to help children meet challenging state academic standards. The District Policy also explains how the District and schools plan to work with parents to review and strengthen parent involvement activities and how parents can participate in planning these activities.

We want to ensure you that you are a part of the District's decision-making. That is why you were asked to provide input into the **2025-2026 District Title I Parent Involvement Policy**. On behalf of the District Title I Parent Advisory Committee and the District Title I Staff, I want to thank you for your valuable participation.

The District Title I Parent Advisory Committee and I met on **October 2, 2025** to review your suggestions and to develop the final copy of the **2025-2026** policy. The enclosed copy of the policy is for you to keep.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lilkenya Jenkins".

Lilkenya Jenkins, Ed.D.
Director of Federal and State Programs

LJ/aj

Enclosure



Darlington County School District Parent Involvement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Darlington County School District 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 expectations and objectives of the Local Education Agency (LEA) for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is included into the LEA's plan submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education.

Each LEA that receives funds under this part shall develop jointly with, agree with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. The policy shall be incorporated into the LEA's plan developed under section 1112, establish the agency's expectations for parent and family engagement, and describe how the agency will-

A. involve parents and family in the joint development of the plan under section 1112, and the process of school review and improvement under section 1116.

- Parents and family members with a child in a Title I School in Darlington County School District will be involved in helping to design and implement the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Parents and family members will be asked to give their suggestions into the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy through written surveys that are sent to all parents and family members at the Title I Schools.
- Parent and family member's suggestions will be reviewed by the District Parent and Family Engagement Advisory Committee and the District Title I Staff.
- A final copy of the District policy will be created from the parent and family member's suggestions and will be distributed to each Title I parent.
- Each Title I School-wide must have a School-wide Planning Committee that is made up of the building principal, faculty members, staff members, parents and community representatives and a representative from the District Title I Office. This Committee will develop the school-wide plan, the school's Parent and Engagement Policy and a Home/School Compact based on suggestions from all parents and family members at the school-wide, and will be responsible for assisting in school review and improvement.
- The School Improvement Council and Parent-Teacher Organization at each Title I school, will take part in school review and improvement as well.
- The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home/School Compact will describe how parents and family members, students, and school staff will share responsibility for quality student achievement.
- Parents and family members at each site will receive a copy of the school Parent Engagement Policy and the Home/School Compact, after final approval by parents and family members at the school-wide site, and will be informed through the school's Title I newsletter, school website, verbally and at the Title I Annual Meeting or Open House of their right to view the Title I School-wide plan at their site.
- Each Title I school will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the schools participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved.

B. provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;

- Members of the Office of Federal Programs, the building Principal, Coordinating Teacher and Parent Liaison (if applicable) at each Title I school will meet frequently to coordinate curriculum information, programs, activities, workshops relating to SC Ready Test, SC College and Career Ready Standards, School Report Cards, assessments, grading procedures, progress reports and other topics of interest to parents.
- Discussions will relate to providing academic assistance for students before and/or after school, professional development in creating effective parent-teacher relationships, training to assist parents in supporting their child's academic program, technical assistance and collaboration with community agencies.
- To determine the needs of parents, a variety of measures, including surveys and questionnaires will be sent home to them. The results will be used to improve the Title I school-wide program.

C. build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement as described in subsection (e);

- School faculty and staff will receive information and/or training in how to improve home to school communication through school orientations held before school opens and through collaboration between home and school.
- The Coordinator will assist the schools with information on effective practices in parent and family engagement.
- The District Parent and Family Engagement Page on the District website and the links to individual school websites will update parents and community on district announcements, upcoming events, and schedules of meetings and will link them to other websites of interest to them.
- A district "**Classroom Visitation Week**" for parents and guardians will be held during American Education Week. If a virtual format is used, it will be posted on each school's webpage or media page.
- Fall and Spring district parent-teacher conferences will be conducted. The conference times/days may vary at each location and may also include a virtual or alternative format to further accommodate times that are convenient to parents.
- Principals will provide parents with reasonable access to teachers as needed, and parents and family members will be encouraged to call the child's teacher when they are concerned about a problem.
- Communication with parents will be timely and will include newsletters, notices, activity packets, phone calls, e-mails, meetings, home visits and information about educational materials in the school's parent and family engagement resource area or the district parent and family engagement resource center, which is located at the Adult Education Center.
- Parents will be provided with information related to the school curriculum and the assessments used to measure student progress and the expectation for meeting proficiency level standards as well as how to use this information to support students in the home.
- Information to parents will be provided in a manner allowing for full participation of parents with limited English proficiency or with disabilities, to the extent practicable.

- Efforts will be made to provide parents with limited English proficiency with correspondence from the school, forms or other information in Spanish and other languages as needed.
- Translators or interpreters for conferences and school activities will be provided to the extent possible.
- Resources will be provided to assist parents in understanding surveys, state academic content standards, academic assessments as well as how to help monitor student progress and work with teachers to support student achievement.
- Title I Schools will plan and conduct parent/family member's workshops at times and in locations that are convenient to parents, as often as possible. Parent training and resources will be provided to help parents work with children in improving areas such as literacy and other areas, as appropriate.

D. coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as the Head Start program, Count Down to Kindergarten program, Parents as Teachers program, and State-run preschool programs.

- Title I parent and family engagement activities will be coordinated and integrated in Darlington County to include **Head Start, FIRST STEPS to School Readiness Program and Adult Education**. To the extent possible, joint workshops that include parents with children at Title I school-wide sites will be conducted.
- The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Section of the district's website will include links to educational sites and various educational programs.
- Parents and family members with children in **Head Start, FIRST STEPS** and other state endorsed early childhood programs will be informed of parent meetings and activities that are being held at the kindergarten sites to facilitate coordination.
- **Adult Education and Family Literacy** information and activities will be available to parents at the school-wide sites.

E. conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under this part, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in activities authorized by this section (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), and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies described in this section; and

- Parents and family members will be surveyed shortly after the beginning of the school year at each school's annual Title I meeting and at the District Title I Parent Advisory Committee meeting concerning the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy and the instructional programs. These activities may include establishing a parent advisory board that consists of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the district to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the district for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.
- Input will be sought from parents and family members to determine their challenges with participation such as being able to understand their rights as stated in the school's parent and

family engagement policy and parent/school compact, economics, personal family issues, language barriers, illiteracy, etc.

- Before the end of the school year, parents and family members will be consulted to secure planning input for the next school year.
- An end-of-the-school year customer service survey will be conducted with all parents whose children are enrolled at a Title I School-wide site. The results of the surveys will be used to create strategies for more effective parent involvement and, if necessary, to revise school level parent involvement policies.
- The District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, which was designed based upon input from all Title I parents, will be revised (if necessary) based upon the annual review participated in by all parents at school-wide sites and the District Title I Parent Advisory Committee.
- Strategies for school improvement will be drawn up by each school's Title I School-wide Committee and the District Title I Parent Advisory Committee.
- The District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be coordinated and monitored for compliance by the District Title I Staff and Coordinating Teachers or designated Title I contacts at the Title I schools, and promoted by the building Principal and other school-wide Staff. Commitment and support by parents at the Title I schools will be indicated by their signature on the Home/School Compact.
- The school-parent compact and Parent Involvement Policy will be jointly developed with parents and will show how parents, school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student achievement.

F. involve parents and family members in the activities of the schools served under this part.

- Parents /families at the Title I School-wide sites will be invited to participate in all school activities and to serve as volunteers. Schools will keep attendance logs with signatures of parents/guardians who volunteer and participate in school events. The information from the logs will be used to verify parent involvement at the school-wide site for the year.

Parents' "Right To Know" Provision

- Parents/families at Title I School-wide sites will receive information annually on the school report card regarding professional qualifications of teachers and qualifications of paraprofessionals at their child's school. Parents/families who desire to have more information about their child's teacher (s) may request that information from the school's principal.

Parent Comments

- Comments and suggestions made by parents and family members are very important to the planning, design, and implementation of Title I School-wide programs. Comments and suggestions made by parents/families will be forwarded to the Director of Federal Programs and the District Title I Staff if the suggestions relate to the District program. Comments and suggestions for individual school programs will be directed to the principal and faculty at the school. The Director of Federal Programs or the principal must approve the response that will be given to the parent(s).

Responses may be given:

a) verbally (in person, in a meeting, by telephone)

b) by note or letter

c) in a newsletter

d) in a method determined by the Director of Federal Programs or the school's Principal

If the Title I School-wide plan is not satisfactory to parents and family members of participating children, the LEA shall submit any parent comments of dissatisfaction with the plan as part of its submission to the State Department of Education.

Parent and family member's comments will be submitted with the school-wide plan as part of its submission only if the plan is not satisfactory to parents/family members of participating children.