

Activity: Building a Master List for Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policies

Goal:

To create a master list of family engagement strategies and activities that schools can use when developing, finalizing, or updating their own Parent and Family Engagement Policies. This will provide division-wide support and help standardize family engagement practices across all schools.

Activity Overview:

Each group will review each section of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement template, acting as if their region represents the schools in that area. Teams will draw on their knowledge of individual schools and their current activities to identify examples and best practices for each section. The outcome will be a master list of items that schools can reference when building or revising their own policies.

The template provides a framework for documenting Parent and Family Engagement efforts and supporting collaboration between parents, staff, and students. Teams should focus on the key areas outlined in each part of the template while brainstorming concrete examples, programs, or practices that align with the section.

Part I – School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Consider examples of annual meetings, parent involvement in planning, communication methods, and strategies schools currently use to share information or gather feedback. Identify items that could be standardized across the division.

Part II – Building Capacity for Parents and Staff

Consider the various ways schools train their staff and support parents in engaging with student learning, such as workshops, literacy programs, technology training, or parent leadership opportunities. Capture strategies that can be adapted or scaled across multiple schools.

Part III – School-Parent Compact

Identify examples of how schools define shared responsibilities between staff, parents, and students, including parent participation, student accountability, and school support. Note practices that could be included in a standard compact template.

Part IV – Accessibility Requirements

Document strategies used to ensure all families can participate, including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or migratory status. Include examples of translated materials, accessible communications, or inclusive engagement practices.

Outcome:

By the end of the activity, each group will have a comprehensive list of examples and strategies for each section of the template. This master list will serve as a resource for schools when building or updating their own policies, ensuring consistent and effective family engagement across the division.

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Part I – School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Bellevue Elementary School will work collaboratively with parents to develop, review, and update the Bellevue Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Once finalized, the policy will be shared with all families of enrolled children and made accessible to the wider community. Bellevue Elementary School will accomplish this through:

- ❖ Title I Annual Meeting--Held annually at the beginning of the year on two separate dates and times to include the following
 - Explanation of Title I program participation
 - Purpose of the Title I program and planned use of funds
 - Explanation of the Title I, Part A requirements
 - Information on the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact
- ❖ Open House provides a platform for families to connect with the school community, including:
 - Teachers
 - Administrators
 - Office of Engagement-Family Liaison and Community in Schools
- ❖ Back to School Night--Parents/Students/Teachers connect, fostering a collaborative partnership for the school year by providing:
 - Classroom information/expectations
 - Curriculum and school policies
 - Opportunity to answer the family survey regarding how to be better informed about school

This collaborative approach ensures families are well-informed and actively involved in the decision-making process. We communicate the policy through an informative PowerPoint presentation and interactive parent engagement surveys, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and meaningful partnerships in our students' education.

To ensure that families understand and can participate fully in the Title I program, Bellevue Elementary School will hold an annual meeting at a time that is convenient for parents. During this meeting, Bellevue Elementary School will explain its Title I status, outline program requirements, and describe parents' rights and opportunities for involvement. Bellevue Elementary School will determine the meeting details and communication methods by promoting our Title I events through multiple communication channels to ensure families receive timely and accessible information. Announcements are shared:

- ❖ ParentSquare is a communication platform used by schools and districts to connect with families and students by:
 - Building two-way communication messaging between the parents/teachers
 - School-wide announcements and emergency alerts
 - Offering multiple languages
- ❖ Title I Flyer--The flyer serves as a communication tool to explain the federal program that provides:
 - Financial assistance to schools with a high percentage of low-income families
- ❖ School Newsletter--To inform, remind, and connect with families by fostering a strong home-school partnership to improve:

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- Student academic achievement
- Ensure compliance with federal parent and family engagement requirements
- ❖ Social Media-to increase parent and family engagement by providing:
 - Accessibility
 - Real-time information
 - Building a sense of community
 - Showcasing the event's value

Bellevue Elementary School is committed to providing flexible opportunities for parent engagement. Meetings will be scheduled at various times, including mornings and evenings, and, when possible, the school will provide/offer resources:

- ❖ Transportation
 - GRTC-Public transportation
 - Rideshare-Uber, Lyft
 - RPS Transportation, if applicable
- ❖ Childcare
 - Team of Richmond City School staff/Volunteers
- ❖ A rotating schedule allows families to meet with staff at times that best fit their availability.
 - Morning, Afternoon, or Evening meetings
- ❖ Virtual meetings
 - The Google Meet link will be provided
 - Zoom-Access code provided

Parents will be actively involved throughout the year in planning, reviewing, and improving Bellevue Elementary School's Title I plan, including the requirements outlined in Sections 1112, 1114, and 1116. This ongoing involvement will occur through engaging families in a variety of meaningful involvement opportunities across the district by:

- ❖ Parent Advisory Council
 - Parents receive an invitation to participate annually
 - Parents participate in monthly sessions
- ❖ Parent-Teacher Conferences offer individualized communication and collaboration to support student success.
 - Parent and Teacher discuss the student's academic progress
- ❖ Parent Teacher Association
 - Parents are encouraged to participate via membership
 - Parent Teacher Associations meetings are held monthly

To support families of English learners, Bellevue Elementary School will implement effective outreach and provide information:

- ❖ Languages and formats that are easily understood by parents. These efforts will help families participate in their child's education and assist their children in attaining English proficiency, achieving at high levels, and meeting State academic standards.
- ❖ Outreach will be carried out by keeping families informed and involved through a variety of ongoing communication and engagement opportunities.

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- ❖ Parents participate in Parent-Teacher Conferences and Curriculum Nights to learn about their child's academic expectations and progress.
- ❖ Family Title I Nights provide additional support and resources to strengthen home-school connections.
- ❖ Teachers regularly share interim reports and report cards
- ❖ ASPEN Parent/Student Portal offers continuous access to grades and important updates.
- ❖ Homework folders containing assessment reports help ensure that parents stay informed about their child's learning on a weekly basis.

Bellevue Elementary School will also ensure that parents receive timely information about Title I programs, along with clear explanations of the school's curriculum, academic assessments, and expected proficiency levels. Upon request, parents will be offered opportunities to meet regularly, share suggestions, and collaborate in decisions related to their child's education, with Bellevue Elementary School responding promptly to input. These commitments will be fulfilled by:

- ❖ Parent invitation to Parent-Teacher Conferences and Curriculum Nights
 - Parent will gain insights into academic expectations and their child's progress.
- ❖ Family Support Nights provide parents
 - with the strategies and resources from Attendance Works to help reinforce learning and promote success at home.
- ❖ Collaborative workshops:
 - Office of Engagement (OOE)-Family Liaison, parents, and school staff to encourage teamwork and shared problem-solving to enhance student outcomes.
- ❖ Standard of Learning-SOLS

If parents are not satisfied with the schoolwide program plan, their comments will be collected and submitted to the Local Education Agency (LEA) upon sharing the plan. Bellevue Elementary School will uphold this requirement by:

- ❖ Exit survey at the conclusion of each event.
 - Google Form
 - Digital use of QR Code

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among Bellevue Elementary School parents, and community to improve student academic achievement, each school and LEA must engage families and staff in activities that Bellevue Elementary School is committed to helping parents understand the rigorous State academic standards by:

- ❖ Monitor their child's progress,
- ❖ Effective collaboration with educators
- ❖ Providing guidance, resources, and opportunities for parents to engage directly with staff/students
- ❖ Offering a districtwide Parent Advisory Council held monthly
- ❖ Scheduled Parent Teacher Conferences
- ❖ Parent opportunities to give input during Parent Teacher Association monthly meetings
- ❖ Outline of Standard of Learning in the State of Virginia

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Bellevue Elementary School will also provide professional development sessions for teachers, specialized instructional personnel, and other staff to deepen their understanding of the importance of parent engagement and the critical role families and communities play in supporting student achievement by:

- ❖ Staff development with a variety of partners:
 - The Office of Engagement will share with staff the importance of parent and family engagement, along with strategies for success
 - CIS-Community In Schools
 - OST-Out of School Time-Boys & Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond, Peter Paul Development Center, Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club, Parks and Recreation
 - English Learners and Educational Life Skills
 - Annual staff training-parent engagement integrated with other local, state, and federal programs-Richmond Police Department, Department of Social Services
 - Trio/SAST meetings provide targeted support and collaboration to promote student success.

Bellevue Elementary School will ensure that information about programs, meetings, and other engagement activities is provided to parents of enrolled children in formats and languages they can understand, to the extent practicable:

- ❖ Communication and outreach will be maintained through various channels to ensure timely and accessible information is provided. These include:
 - ParentSquare
 - School Newsletter
 - Social media platforms such as Facebook and Instagram.
 - Class DOJO
 - Language Support Line
 - Language Line
 - Interpreter Services

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Part III – School-Parent Compact

Bellevue Elementary School and the parents of enrolled children agree to share responsibility for student learning and to build a partnership that helps children meet the State's high academic standards.

School Responsibilities

- ❖ Believing that each student can learn
- ❖ Respect and value the uniqueness of each student and his or her family
- ❖ Provide an environment that promotes active learning
- ❖ Assist each student in achieving the essential academic learning requirements
- ❖ Document ongoing assessment of each student's academic progress
- ❖ Maintain open lines of communication with students and parents
- ❖ Seek ways to involve parents in the school program
- ❖ Demonstrate professional behavior and a positive attitude

Bellevue Elementary School provides parents with frequent progress reports to keep them informed about their child's academic performance, which includes:

- ❖ Interim reports every four weeks during each nine-week grading period,
 - Report cards every nine weeks, and
 - Updates through parent square
 - Student folders are also used to send work samples and assessment information home, ensuring parents have multiple ways to monitor and support their child's learning.

Bellevue Elementary School ensures two-way, meaningful communication by:

- ❖ Family's language of origin
- ❖ Language Justice Line and interpreters.
- ❖ Digital platforms-Facebook, Instagram
- ❖ ParentSquare

Parent Responsibilities

Parents will support their children's learning by actively:

- ❖ Monitoring attendance
- ❖ Ensuring homework completion
- ❖ Promoting positive use of extracurricular time,
- ❖ Volunteering at a students' school
- ❖ Participating in educational decisions,
- ❖ Staying informed
- ❖ Encourage students to read at home
- ❖ Attend parent/teacher conferences
- ❖ Help the student solve conflicts in a positive way

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- ❖ Maintaining communication with Bellevue Elementary School.

Part IV – Accessibility Requirements

In implementing the Parent and Family Engagement requirements, Bellevue Elementary School and local educational agencies will provide opportunities for all parents and family members to participate meaningfully in their child's education. This includes parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Bellevue Elementary School will ensure that information and school reports required under Section 1111 are provided in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. This is accomplished by providing:

- ❖ Information in the parents' language of origin,
- ❖ Language Justice Line
- ❖ On-site interpreter,
- ❖ Providing interpretation devices to facilitate communication.