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DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

Davidson County Schools' Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Definition of Parent and Family Engagement

The term "parent and family engagement" means the participation of parents, guardians, and other family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities. It is our goal for parents and family members to play an integral role in assisting their child's learning, and parents are full partners with the school in their child's education. The school system will provide activities and resources to support parent and family engagement.

What is the Title I Program?

The Title I Program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to economically disadvantaged schools. Funds allocated to schools ensure all students an equitable, high quality, well-rounded education. Parent and family engagement is a strategy required by the Title I program that has been found can directly improve student achievement.

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Requirements

Davidson County Schools' Board of Education Policy 7.8 (https://drive.google.com/file/d/0ByqJm1LeHMGxdWhHU29qYnJKWGc/view) outlines the district's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The information in this document is a summary of the actual board policy.

The following actions will be taken by the school system to involve parents and families in the joint development of the district parent and family engagement plan:

- Organize a Title I District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) that consists of representative Title I School parents to meet during the school year to discuss system policies and review the Title I program
- Provide support to assist the Title I Schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement

Parent and Family Engagement Efforts

Davidson County Schools will, with the assistance of its Title I Schools, build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement through the following activities specifically described below:

A. Provide assistance to parents in understanding topics related to child's education such as the following:

- The state's academic content standards
- The state's academic achievement standards and assessment reports
- State and local assessments, including alternative assessment such as Read to Achieve
- Monitoring their child's progress through online parent portals such as NC PowerSchool
- Effectively build communication with individuals involved in their child's success

Meetings will be held throughout the school year for parents to receive information that is clear and concise to assist their understanding in necessary information affecting their child.

B. Provide materials and parent training to help parents work with their child at home to support their children's learning. Providing the following will foster parent and family engagement:

- Workshops that align with what students are learning in class, with content specific strategies
- A subscription to the "Reading Connection" monthly newsletter provided to Title I families
- A guide to help families navigate the district's Title I website
- A parent resource center with content specific materials available for checkout to provide additional support at home with their child's learning
- Guides/newsletters to explain academic standards in parent friendly language with examples

C. Educate school personnel on effective communication with parents to develop partnerships and how to implement parent programs. This training will include classroom teachers, school counselors, support staff, and administration.

D. Collaborate and coordinate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool and other NC Pre-K programs to support the successful transition from Pre K to kindergarten. School Readiness Personnel available for each elementary school and are responsible for reaching out to parents of children who are between the ages birth to 5.

E. Ensure Title I information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents in an understandable and uniform format,

including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The district and Title I Schools will utilize the following communication formats:

- Davidson County Schools' website: www.davidson.k12.nc.us
- Individual school websites
- Phone calls – translator available upon request
- School messenger
- Parent communication logs
- Invitations sent home for parent training sessions

F. Conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. All parents at Title I schools will have an opportunity to complete a survey evaluating the Title I Schoolwide program. Results will be shared with the district advisory council.

H. Engage parents in the process of school review and improvement through the following actions:

- Representative parents will serve on the district Title I Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)
- Representative parents will serve on the school's School Improvement Team
- Parent meetings will be documented and input from parents will be shared with the Title I District Advisory Council (DPAC)
- The school and district parent engagement policies will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year