

**POTTSVILLE AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
JOHN S. CLARKE ELEMENTARY CENTER
2026-2027 TITLE I SCHOOL AND PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

(Pottsville Area School Board adopted 6/8/22, reviewed 5/26/26 and 6/15/26)

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy of the Pottsville Area School District (PASD) is jointly developed, in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (*ESSA Section 1116(b)(1)*), with the PASD Title I staff, parents, and family members during Title I Parent and Family Engagement events, workshops, and the annual parent meeting. Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including:

- Participating in advisory committees to annually evaluate the school policy and design evidence-based strategies for more effective family involvement (*ESSA Section 1116 (c)(3)*)
- Playing an active, integral, and decision-making role in their child's education as noted in John S. Clarke Elementary Center's Home/School Compact
- Visiting the Title I Parent Resource Center, which has information to help students succeed academically, located in the Reading Center 310 in John S. Clarke Elementary Center
- Receiving timely information regarding Title I programs, school activities, academic expectations, grading practices, local and state assessments, student progress, attendance, and opportunities for parent and family involvement through ParentSquare, email, district websites, newsletters, conferences, and other school communications.
- Requesting information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's teachers and paraprofessionals who provide instructional services
- Attending the annual parent meeting and/or completing parent and family engagement surveys to provide parental input on the following:
 - District and School Parent and Family Engagement policies
 - Home/School Compacts
 - Surveys
 - Schoolwide Plans
 - Title programs and allocations
 - Title I Parent and Family Engagement allocation including activities and events for the upcoming school year (*ESSA Section 1116 (6)(e)(1)*)
 - Student and school data

JSC parents/guardians are encouraged to attend the annual parent and Schoolwide Leadership Team Meetings. Parents are invited to attend through email, surveys, and at Title I Parent and Family Engagement events. (Survey results are utilized to select the most convenient days and times for meetings and workshops.)

Annual Parent Meeting: This meeting is held in the spring at D.H.H. Lengel Middle School. During this meeting, parents will learn about JSC's Title I program, the support the program offers for student learning, how Title funds are used, curriculum, assessments, academic goals, and their rights and involvement in their child's education. The meeting also provides an opportunity for families to ask questions, share feedback and ideas, and learn ways to support their child(ren) at home.

Schoolwide Leadership Team Meeting: Two formal meetings are held in the fall and the

spring at John S. Clarke Elementary Center. During the fall meeting, the targets and goals of the Schoolwide Plan and school programs are reviewed. Throughout the school year, the targets are monitored by administration and the leadership team. During the spring meeting, the targets and goals of the Schoolwide Plan and school programs are evaluated based on student and school data by the Schoolwide Leadership Team. Decisions for goals, targets, and improvements will be made as a team based on data. Parent survey results will be reviewed for input.

John S. Clarke Elementary Center will provide assistance to parents with a description and explanation of the Schoolwide Plan developed under ESSA Section 1114, including the curriculum, Pennsylvania Academic Standards, types of academic assessments used to measure and monitor student progress, and interventions available to increase student success (*ESSA Sections 1116(c)(4)(B) and 1116(e)*) during Title I Parent and Family Engagement events, workshops, and the annual parent meeting. JSC will educate all staff, with the assistance of SPAC, in the value of building ties between parents and the school staff.

During Title I Parent and Family Engagement events, workshops, and the annual parent meeting, JSC will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve achievement and foster involvement by:

- Explaining the Title I program, schoolwide goals, and improvement targets to JSC families
- Expanding family access to literacy and academic resources through the John S. Clarke Elementary Center Title I Parent Resource Center located in Reading Center 310, including books, take-home learning materials, and resources aligned to student needs
- Highlighting JSC's focus on foundational literacy, mathematics, and STEM skills through family activities, instructional resources, and academic support opportunities
- Helping families understand grade-level expectations and Pennsylvania Academic Standards
- Supporting families with homework routines, attendance habits, and positive school behaviors that contribute to student success
- Connecting JSC families with digital learning tools, educational resources, and STEM opportunities that align with classroom instruction and promote problem-solving, innovation, and academic achievement
- Encouraging JSC family participation in literacy initiatives, including the Title I Winter Reading Challenge, Summer Reading Challenge, and other family literacy activities designed to strengthen reading habits at home
- Encouraging participation in JSC family events that strengthen the connection between home and school, including Book Bingo Family Night, Title I Table Talk, and other family engagement activities
- Strengthening family support for literacy and mathematics development through take-home activities, reading resources, and strategies that reinforce foundational skills and classroom learning
- Encouraging families to develop routines and habits that promote independence, responsibility, and confidence in JSC learners
- Sharing information with families regarding student progress, strengths, areas for growth, and achievement data through classroom assessments, local assessments, state assessments, and progress monitoring tools, including DIBELS and iXL
- Encouraging families to request meetings and participate, as appropriate, in decisions regarding their child's education

Please take a moment to complete our Parent and Family Engagement Survey at
<https://tinyurl.com/jscb2sn2026>.

- Collaborating with JSC classroom teachers, instructional support teachers, and the Title I Team to share strategies families can use to reinforce reading, mathematics, and learning skills at home
 - Connecting families with early intervention, speech/language, counseling, and academic support services available at JSC
 - Expanding access to academic enrichment and intervention opportunities that support foundational skills and individual student growth
 - Supporting incoming Kindergarten families through JSC Kindergarten Orientation and Kindergarten Talk to build familiarity with school expectations, routines, and resources
 - Supporting JSC fourth-grade families during fifth-grade transition activities to prepare students for the move to D.H.H. Lengel Middle School
 - Encouraging parents to attend and/or participate in the following Title I sponsored events, some which may be held virtually:
 - Annual Title I Parent/Guardian Meeting – Spring
 - JSC Kindergarten Orientation – Fall
 - Back-To-School Night – Fall
 - JSC Title I Table Talk – Fall
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences – Fall
 - JSC Title I Winter Reading Challenge – Winter
 - JSC Kindergarten Talk for Incoming Kindergarten Students– Spring
 - JSC Title I Book Bingo Family Night – Spring
 - JSC Title I Summer Program – Summer
 - JSC Title I Summer Reading Challenge – Summer
 - Title I Parent and Family Event(s) and Workshop(s)– held throughout the school year
- (ESSA Section 1116 (c)(2))*

JSC and the Parent Advisory Committee will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. An annual needs assessment survey will encourage parental input and suggestions. The findings of the survey will be used to review and revise the existing policy.

JSC values ongoing, two-way communication with parents and families. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers and administrators with questions, concerns, or suggestions throughout the school year. School staff will make every effort to respond in a timely manner and work collaboratively with families to support student success.

All documents are available in multiple languages via Google Translate. If needed, translators can be secured for any Parent and Family Engagement event. Please contact the John S. Clarke Elementary Center Office at (570) 621-2900.

A more detailed District Parent and Family Engagement Policy is accessible on the district website.

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