APS District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Local Educational Agency (LEA) school districts, in meaningful consultation with parents, may use the sample template below as a framework for the information to be included in their parent and family engagement policy. School districts are not required to follow this sample template or framework, but if they establish the LEA's expectations for parent and family engagement and include all of the components listed under "PART's II and III" below, they will have incorporated the information that Section 1116(a) (2) requires to be in the LEA parent and family engagement policy. The district is required to engage parents and families, who have Title I students, through meaningful consultation in developing/revising the school policy. They are encouraged to include other relevant and agreed upon activities and actions that will support effective parent and family engagement and strengthen student academic achievement. Meaningful consultation is when conversations are held before decisions are made to ensure joint the development of policy is effective.

This template may be used when a district serves two or more schools with Title I funds.

A district with more than one Title I school, the district must have a parent and family engagement policy and each Title I school must have a parent and family engagement policy.

If the district has a parent and family engagement policy that applies to all parents and family members, the district can amend that policy, if necessary, to meet the requirements of ESSA, Section 1116. Note: Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.8955.

Building District Capacity for Involvement

To make sure there is effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership with parents and the community, each Title I school and district will assist to improve student achievement:

1. Provide to parents of Title children assistance in understanding the State academic standards, the state and local academic assessments, the parent and family engagement rights of Title I, how to monitor their child's progress, and work with their child's teachers to improve the academic success of their child.
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. This could be literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
3. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, 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.

4. When possible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct activities together, such as parent resource centers, which encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
5. Ensure when possible that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Discretionary District Parental Involvement Components

Austin Public Schools parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

1. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
2. Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A, funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
3. Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
4. Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
5. In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
6. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
7. Establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A, programs.
8. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.
9. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities identified under section 1116 as parents may request.

Resources:

More details about the information required below may be found in ESSA, Section 1116, and in the Title I and II, Compliance Guide and Monitoring Tool, on the MDE website.

Title I, Part A, Parent and Family Engagement Toolkit, Texas Education Agency and Region 16 ESC, Statewide Parent and Family Engagement Initiative

LEA role in Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) in Title I, Part A Programs, State of Washington, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction

Local Educational Agencies (LEA/District) and School Policies, Georgia Department of Parent and Family Engagement

Family and Community Engagement, United States Department of Education

Austin Public Schools Parent and Family Engagement Expectations

2026-27

Austin Public Schools are committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. We want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if the school and families work together to support high achievement of our children. We can't do this job alone. Parents and families play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Part I. District Expectations

Austin Public Schools agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. The school district 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, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

2. Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

3. 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.

4. The school district will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement policy into its district plan developed under section 1112 of the ESSA.

5. If the district plan for Title I, A Part, found in the State Educational Record View and Submission (SERVS), developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, 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 the Minnesota State Department of Education.

6. The school district with a Title I, Part A, allocation of over $500,000, will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

7. The school district will be governed by the following definition of the term "parent" includes legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

8. Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
    a. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
    b. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
    c. that 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;
    d. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

Part II. Description of How the District Wil Implement Required Components

1. Austin Public Schools will engage parents and families who have Title I students in developing/revising the district policy.
    - During bi-monthly meetings of Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness

2. Austin Public Schools will take the following actions to engage the parents and families in jointly developing the district Title I plan {Section 1112] which is in the SERVS application and the development and review of the Schoolwide or Title I Targeted Assistance Plan. If applicable the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plan in the schools' identified for improvement plans. [Section 1111(D) (1)(2)
    - During bi-monthly meetings of Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness (District Review)
    - During monthly PTC meetings with building principals (Site Review)

3. Austin Public Schools will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This could include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders and philanthropic organizations or individuals with experience in effectively engaging families in education.
    - During monthly meetings with building principals through School Leadership Teams, parent engagement strategies including those that are title funded will be discussed
    - During quarterly meetings with the Packer Profile Community Task Force

4. Austin Public Schools will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance.
    - During monthly meetings with building principals, parent engagement strategies including those that are title funded will be discussed

5. Austin Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of Title I students and the schools.

    Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs.
    a. Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members that keep them from participating in their child's education especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.

b. Identify the needs of the Title I parents and family members to assist the learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
c. Identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

- During bi-monthly Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness meetings, family engagement strategies will be presented, and the outcomes of the strategies will be shared. Evaluation will be in the form of participation counts and evaluations as appropriate. These will be conducted by the building principals.

6. Austin Public Schools will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement as necessary and to revise the parent and family engagement policy as necessary.
    - The information will be shared at the final Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness meeting of the academic year. Parent feedback will be attained, and changes to the procedures and strategies will be made for the following academic year.

7. Austin Public Schools will involve parents in activities at the Austin Public Schools. This could be establishing a parent advisory board that represents the population of Title I parents and family members, that develops, evaluates and reviews or revises the parent and family engagement policy.
    - Parents are members of Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Committee

8. Austin Public Schools will involve parents and family members of the 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 reserved goes directly to Title I schools.
    - Parents from Title I, Part A schools are part of Comprehensive Achievement and Civic Readiness Committee

Part III. Accessibility

Austin Public Schools will meet the requirements of parent and family engagement of Title I, to the extent practicable, we will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

- District Success Coaches act as liaisons to ensure families that are non-English speaking can engage in programs and understand what is shared by the district. The Special Services Office works to meet the needs of parents with children with disabilities.

Part IV. Adoption

The Austin Public Schools The Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes and sign-in sheets.

On July 1, 2026, the Austin Public Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be in effect for the period of the school year.

Austin Public Schools will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children and make it available to the community.

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(Signature of Title I Authorized Representative)

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