District: Rankin County School District
Section: L - Organizational Relations
Policy Code: LAA - Title I Parental Engagement

Title I Parental Involvement

ESEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

1) The Rankin County School District recognizes the importance of a positive parent/school partnership and encourages all schools to involve parents in the educational program. This parent and family engagement policy was developed with input from parents, teachers, administrators and students. It is reviewed annually and revised as needed. The Rankin County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements in schools currently being served as school-wide Title I schools:

   a) The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

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

   c) The school district will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

   d) In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental 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, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

   e) If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, 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 Mississippi Department of Education.

   f) The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one (1) percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one (1) percent reserved goes directly to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools.

   g) The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and

e) Hosting meetings, events, celebrations, and conferences that invite parents and community members to learn more about program goals and activities.

f) Offering parent workshops on a variety of topics specific to each program such as literacy, child development, drug and alcohol issues, arts education, and technology integration.

4) The Rankin County School District 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 in improving the quality of the Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, and disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.

a) Conducting annual surveys of parents to evaluate the effectiveness of parental engagement activities provided by each school and the district.

b) Utilizing survey results in the strategic planning process for each school and the district. Each school has a designated Parent/School Liaison who will assist in the evaluation and planning process.

c) Offering each parent in the district the opportunity to provide feedback to the school and district staff on program activities and parental engagement plans.

5) The Rankin County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following—

(1) Mississippi's academic content standards,

(2) Mississippi's student academic achievement standards,

(3) Mississippi's and the local academic assessments including alternate assessments,

(4) The requirements of Part A,

(5) How to monitor a child's progress, and

(6) How to work with educators.

The Rankin County School District will provide assistance on these topics by undertaking the actions described below:

(a) Providing appropriate training for parents in appropriate settings so that parents can learn about child development, state and district academic standards and assessments, and show

arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting 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;

f) Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental engagement;

g) Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental engagement in Title I, Part A programs;

h) Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental engagement activities; and

i) Providing other reasonable support for parental engagement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1116

Adopted Date: 11/13/2002
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