



BLOUNT
COUNTY SCHOOLS

LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan Fiscal Year 2027

*This plan is a portion of the Board Approved LEA Consolidated Plan

Parent and Family Engagement (Sec. 1116 (2))

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(A))

A. Describe how the Local Education Agency will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d).

Blount County Schools takes the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Consolidated Plan under Section 1112 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and in the development of school support and improvement plans under Section 1111(d).

The district conducts biannual Federal Programs Advisory Committee meetings and District Parent Advisory Council meetings, which are scheduled back-to-back to maximize parent participation. These district-level meetings are held in addition to each school's annual Title I parent meetings and other family engagement activities. Parents are invited to participate, and each school is represented by at least one parent in addition to school administrators. During these meetings, parents review and provide input on the LEA Consolidated Plan, district Title I programs, parent and family engagement activities, and the use of federal funds. Parent feedback is considered when developing and revising district plans and priorities.

Blount County Schools also provides multiple opportunities for parents and family members to review plans and offer input throughout the school year through annual parent surveys, email communications, the district website, the district parent communication app, automated phone notifications, and Annual Title I Parent Information Meetings held at each school. Parents attending these meetings are provided opportunities to submit comments and recommendations regarding Title I programs, services, and the LEA Consolidated Plan. The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy is publicly available on the district website for all families.

Parents are active members of each school's leadership team and participate in the development, implementation, monitoring, and annual review of each school's Continuous Improvement Plan. Schools identified for Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) ensure that parents are actively involved in reviewing student achievement data, identifying areas of need, developing evidence-based improvement strategies, and providing input regarding the use of federal funds to support student success. Parent representatives from these schools also participate in district-level Parent Advisory Council and Federal Programs Advisory Committee meetings to strengthen communication between the district and schools and to ensure alignment between district and school improvement efforts.

Through these collaborative structures and ongoing communication, Blount County Schools ensures that parents and family members are meaningful partners in the planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of district and school programs supported through Title I, Part A.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(B))

B. Describe how the Local Education Agency will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

Blount County Schools provides coordination, technical assistance, and ongoing support to all Title I schools to ensure the effective planning and implementation of parent and family engagement activities that improve student academic achievement and school performance. The district believes that meaningful partnerships between families, schools, and the community are essential to student success and provides schools with the resources, training, and guidance necessary to build strong family-school relationships.

The district provides technical assistance to schools in the development, implementation, and annual evaluation of school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plans, School-Parent Compacts, Annual Title I Meetings, and other family engagement activities. District staff review school plans for compliance with federal requirements, provide feedback and guidance, share evidence-based family engagement practices, and assist schools in identifying meaningful opportunities for parent participation in school improvement efforts.

Blount County Schools builds the capacity of school staff by providing professional learning for administrators, teachers, counselors, and support personnel on effective family engagement strategies, culturally responsive communication, and

building positive partnerships with families. Schools are encouraged to engage parents as equal partners in decision-making and to incorporate parent input into school improvement planning and Title I programming.

The district coordinates parent and family engagement activities across multiple federal and state programs, including Title I, Title III (English Learner), Migrant Education, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education, Foster Care, and Special Education, to ensure families receive consistent communication, coordinated services, and equitable access to educational opportunities. Information is provided through multiple communication methods, including the district website, parent communication app, email, automated phone notifications, social media, school newsletters, and Annual Title I Meetings. To the extent practicable, information is translated into languages families understand and provided in accessible formats for parents with disabilities.

Blount County Schools supports schools through the district's Family Engagement Center, which serves as a central resource for families by offering parent workshops, educational lending libraries, family literacy resources, technology assistance, multilingual supports, and referrals to community services. The district also collaborates with community partners, including the Helping Families Initiative, Karing for Kids, the Blount County Education Foundation, the Blount County Literacy Council, local businesses, and other organizations to expand resources and strengthen family engagement opportunities.

Parents are actively involved in district decision-making through the District Parent Advisory Council and Federal Programs Advisory Committee, which meet at least twice annually to review district programs, provide recommendations, and assist in the planning and evaluation of parent and family engagement activities. Parents also provide feedback through annual surveys, school leadership teams, and Title I meetings. This input is used to identify barriers to family participation, determine the needs of families, evaluate the effectiveness of engagement activities, and continuously improve district and school parent and family engagement programs.

Through ongoing coordination, technical assistance, professional learning, community partnerships, and continuous evaluation, Blount County Schools builds the capacity of schools and families to work together in supporting student learning, increasing family engagement, and improving academic achievement for all students.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(C))

C. Describe how the Local Education Agency will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

The Blount County School District will coordinate and integrate family engagement strategies in Part A with other Federal, State, and local programs by providing access to the Blount County Schools Family Engagement Center for all parents whose children attend a Blount County School. The Center, located adjacent to the Professional Learning Center in Cleveland, AL, provides a central location for parent resources, training, and support services.

In addition to housing parent materials and offering one-on-one support, the Family Engagement Center serves as a collaborative space to connect families with services supported through Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, Title IX, Title I-C (Migrant), IDEA, and local initiatives. Parent training workshops are offered throughout the year on topics such as academic support at home, literacy and math strategies, social-emotional learning, and college and career readiness.

These efforts complement and strengthen school-based family engagement, including PTO and parent volunteer activities, by providing parents with the knowledge and tools to participate more actively in their child's education. The LEA will continue to align parent and family engagement efforts across schools and programs to ensure families experience consistent communication, equitable access to resources, and meaningful opportunities for involvement.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(D))

D. E. F. Describe how the Local Education Agency will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part.

Blount County Schools will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy to determine its impact on improving the academic quality of all Title I schools. The evaluation will include parent surveys, participation data, feedback from Annual Title I Meetings, District Parent Advisory Council meetings, Federal Programs Advisory Committee meetings, school leadership teams, and other communications with families. Results will be reviewed by district and school leaders and used to revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and school-level family engagement activities.

(i) Identifying barriers to parent and family participation

The annual evaluation will identify barriers that limit parent and family participation, with particular attention given to families who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are members of racial or ethnic minority groups. Parent surveys are available in English and Spanish through school and district websites, with paper copies provided upon request. Additional feedback is gathered through Title I Annual Meetings, Parent Advisory Council meetings, email correspondence, telephone conversations, and personal interactions with families.

The district analyzes survey responses, participation data, and stakeholder feedback to identify barriers such as meeting times, transportation, childcare, communication methods, language access, technology access, and other factors that may limit family participation. Findings are shared with school principals, the District Parent Advisory Council, and district leadership and are used to develop strategies that increase participation and remove barriers for all families.

(ii) Identifying the needs of parents and family members

The annual evaluation also identifies the resources, information, and training parents need to support their children's academic success and effectively engage with teachers and school personnel. Parent feedback helps determine topics for workshops, training sessions, family engagement events, and educational resources. Based on identified needs, the district provides support related to curriculum, academic expectations, literacy, mathematics, technology, attendance, assessment, and strategies families can use to reinforce learning at home. The Blount County Family Engagement Center further supports these efforts by providing parent workshops, a Parent Lending Library, educational materials, technology assistance, multilingual resources, and referrals to community services.

(iii) Strategies to support successful school and family interactions

Blount County Schools uses the results of the annual evaluation to strengthen communication and collaboration between schools and families. Schools provide multiple opportunities for meaningful two-way communication through parent-teacher conferences, PowerSchool Parent Portal, progress reports, report cards, district and school websites, newsletters, the district mobile app, Finalsite Communications, Remind, email, telephone calls, and translation services, as appropriate. Parents are encouraged to participate in school activities, volunteer opportunities, advisory councils, and school improvement planning.

The district provides ongoing technical assistance to schools in developing effective Parent and Family Engagement Plans and School-Parent Compacts and offers professional learning for teachers, administrators, counselors, and other staff on building positive relationships with families and engaging parents as equal partners in their children's education. Through continuous evaluation and meaningful parent involvement, Blount County Schools uses feedback to improve family engagement practices, strengthen school-family partnerships, and increase student academic achievement.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(E)

G. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

Blount County Schools uses the results of the annual Parent and Family Engagement evaluation to develop evidence-based strategies that strengthen family engagement and improve student academic achievement. Evaluation findings, including parent surveys, participation data, feedback from Annual Title I Meetings, Parent Advisory Council meetings, and other stakeholder input, are analyzed to identify strengths, barriers, and opportunities for improvement.

Evaluation results are shared with school principals, Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) Leadership Teams, Parent-Teacher Organizations, the District Improvement Team, the Federal Programs Advisory Committee, and the District Parent Advisory Council. These stakeholders review the findings and collaborate to identify effective practices, address barriers to participation, and recommend improvements to district and school family engagement activities.

Based on the evaluation results, Blount County Schools revises the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plans, School-Parent Compacts, and related procedures as needed. The district also uses the findings to plan professional learning for educators, improve communication methods, expand translation and accessibility supports, schedule meetings at times convenient for families, develop parent workshops based on identified needs, and enhance the resources and services available through the Blount County Family Engagement Center.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(F))

H. Describe how the Local Education Agency will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

Blount County Schools actively involves parents and family members in the planning, implementation, and continuous improvement of Title I programs through meaningful opportunities for participation at both the district and school levels. The district believes that parents are essential partners in educating children and seeks their input in developing, revising, and reviewing the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the LEA Consolidated Plan, and school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plans.

The district maintains a District Parent Advisory Council composed of parent representatives from each Title I school that reflects the diverse needs of the families served by Blount County Schools. The Parent Advisory Council meets at least twice annually to review district family engagement activities, discuss student and family needs, identify barriers to participation, evaluate the effectiveness of parent engagement efforts, and provide recommendations for revising district policies and plans. Parent representatives from schools identified for Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) or Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) also participate to ensure the needs of those school communities are represented.

At the school level, parents serve on Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) Leadership Teams, participate in Parent-Teacher Organizations, attend Annual Title I Meetings, parent-teacher conferences, family engagement events, and other school activities. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback through surveys, meetings, email, telephone conversations, and direct communication with school and district staff. This ongoing input helps guide school improvement efforts, Title I programming, and parent and family engagement activities throughout the year.

To strengthen communication and increase family participation, Blount County Schools provides multiple methods for parents to stay informed and engaged, including the PowerSchool Parent Portal, district and school websites, the district mobile app, Finalsite Communications, newsletters, email, automated phone notifications, and social media. Translation and interpretation services are provided, to the extent practicable, to ensure all families have meaningful access to information and opportunities to participate.

Parent feedback is reviewed throughout the year by school and district leadership, the District Improvement Team, and the District Parent Advisory Council. While the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy is formally reviewed and revised annually, schools and the district implement improvements throughout the year as needs are identified. Through these collaborative efforts, Blount County Schools ensures that parents and family members remain active partners in supporting student learning and improving school performance.

Sec. 1116(e)

In order to build capacity for Parent and Family Engagement, the Local Education Agency will ensure effective involvement of parents and will support a partnership among the schools involved, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA shall:

I. Describe how it will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

The Blount County School District will provide assistance to parents of children served by the district in understanding the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and strategies for monitoring and supporting their child's progress. This assistance will be provided through multiple avenues, including parent workshops, informational sessions at the Blount County Schools Family Engagement Center, and resources posted on the district website.

Parents will be offered training opportunities on topics such as interpreting student assessment data, understanding grade-level expectations, supporting literacy and math at home, and using technology platforms like PowerSchool Parent Portal to monitor attendance, grades, and discipline. Teachers and school staff will be available to explain standards, assessments, and individual student progress through scheduled conferences and ongoing communication via newsletters, school apps, and digital communication platforms.

Additionally, translation services will be made available to ensure all parents, including those of English Learners, can access and understand academic information. The district will also partner with community organizations to provide

supplemental supports (e.g., clothing, school supplies, and wellness resources) that remove barriers to family engagement and help parents remain actively involved in their child's education.

By equipping parents with knowledge and tools, the LEA strengthens the home-school partnership, empowering families to work collaboratively with educators to improve student academic achievement.

J. Describe how it will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

The Blount County School District will assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement. This will be accomplished by:

- Serving on the schools' advisory committees, if requested
- Providing parent training sessions for parents as requested or needed
- Providing materials for schools to use in trainings
- Conducting an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the family engagement policy and plan. The evaluation will include an opportunity for parents to identify barriers preventing them from participating in parent activities provided by the schools and/or LEA
- Providing a brochure in English and Spanish for parents. This publication will contain information on how to request information about the professional qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals who work with their children, a copy of the Parents Right-to-Know". This information is also included in the Blount County Student Handbook.
- The Family Engagement Policy and Plan will be posted on our district website in both English and Spanish.
- Announcement flyers pertaining to parent training sessions provided in English and Spanish where an interpreter will be present.
- Convening the Parent Advisory Council twice yearly, to oversee the planning and implementation of the Family Engagement Plan

K. Describe how it will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, 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 the school.

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Providing specific information regarding what the district Family Engagement Policy and Plan provides for each school. This information will be included in the schools' Continuous Improvement Plans
- Assistance and guidance to administrators and committee members in planning parent activities and revising family engagement policies and plans.
- Assisting schools in the development of the School-Home Compact which outlines the responsibilities of parents, teachers, other school staff and students to achieve academic standards
- Encouraging and using parent volunteers.
- Providing annual beginning of the year training on how to partner with parents and families

L. Describe how it will to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

The Blount County Schools District Parent and Family Engagement Program coordinates and integrates parent involvement activities with other federal, state, and local programs to provide comprehensive support for families. Each school maintains a Parent Resource Corner in the front office or lobby containing information and resources for families, including:

- Parents' Right to Know information (available in multiple languages)
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education information
- Community resource information
- Safe and Drug-Free Schools resources

Blount County Schools also operates a district Family Engagement Center, centrally located within the county, where families have access to educational materials, bilingual resources, parent workshops, learning activities, technology support, and academic supplies to help support student learning at home.

Parent engagement efforts are coordinated with other federal programs, including Title III (English Learners), McKinney-Vento Homeless Education, Migrant Education, Foster Care, and Special Education, to ensure families receive consistent communication, resources, and support based on their individual needs.

The district partners with numerous community agencies to strengthen services available to families. These partnerships include the Helping Families Initiative through the Blount County District Attorney's Office, which connects families with community resources and support services; local mental health and counseling providers; the Blount County Children's Policy Council; public libraries; local churches and civic organizations; and other community agencies that provide food assistance, clothing, healthcare, and social services.

Through these coordinated efforts, Blount County Schools encourages parents to become active partners in their children's education and provides multiple opportunities for meaningful family engagement throughout the school year.

M. Describe how it will ensure that information related to 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.

The Blount County School District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided to parents in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand:

The LEA's Migrant/ESL Home-School Liaison and/or EL Program Support Aide provide translations, whenever feasible, for all notices, required forms, and other written communications sent home to parents.

The Migrant/ESL Home-School Liaison also provides in-person interpretation, as needed, for parent meetings, IEP meetings, parent/teacher conferences, disciplinary hearings, testing sessions, health-related appointments, and student registration.

The Alabama State Department of Education supports the district by providing access to Language Link services, which are utilized for preplanned and impromptu parent communication requiring interpretation support.

The Family Engagement Center has a fluent bilingual assistant to provide additional support for parents and guardians who need translation or interpretation services.

Through these combined efforts, the Blount County School District ensures that all parents—regardless of language or literacy level—are able to access important information, fully participate in school-related activities, and effectively engage in their child's education.

N. Describe how the local education agency will ensure it provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

Blount County Schools is committed to providing reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as requested by parents and family members. Each Title I school budgets Parent and Family Engagement funds and incorporates family engagement activities into its Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). School leadership teams, including parent representatives, determine how these funds will be used to address the unique needs of their school community and to support meaningful family engagement.

Parents are encouraged to request additional support through Annual Title I Meetings, parent surveys, Parent Advisory Council meetings, school leadership teams, parent-teacher conferences, and ongoing communication with school and district staff. Requests are reviewed by school administrators and the Federal Programs Office to determine appropriate resources and support.

Based on parent input, Blount County Schools may provide additional parent workshops, educational materials, literacy and mathematics resources, technology assistance, translation and interpretation services, flexible meeting times, virtual participation opportunities, transportation or childcare assistance when feasible, and other reasonable supports that encourage meaningful family participation in their children's education. The Blount County Family Engagement Center also serves as a district resource by providing parent training, a Parent Lending Library, educational materials, technology access, and referrals to community services.

The district continuously evaluates parent feedback to ensure requested supports are responsive to the needs of families and contribute to increased parent engagement, stronger school-family partnerships, and improved student achievement.

O. Describe how the local education agency may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

Blount County Schools recognizes parents and family members as valuable partners in developing professional learning that strengthens school-family partnerships and improves student achievement. Parent input is gathered through annual parent surveys, District Parent Advisory Council meetings, school Parent Advisory Committees, Annual Title I Meetings, Family Engagement events, and ongoing communication with schools and the district.

Parents are encouraged to provide feedback regarding communication, family engagement practices, school climate, and the support they need to help their children succeed. This information is reviewed by district and school leaders to identify professional learning needs for teachers, principals, counselors, and other educators.

Based on parent feedback, professional learning may include topics such as effective two-way communication, building positive relationships with families, culturally responsive family engagement practices, strategies for increasing parent participation, supporting families of English Learners and other special populations, and partnering with parents to support student learning at home. Parents may also be invited to participate in training sessions, share their perspectives, or serve on advisory committees to help ensure professional learning reflects the needs of the families served by Blount County Schools.

Through meaningful parent involvement in planning and evaluating professional learning, Blount County Schools strengthens educators' capacity to engage families as equal partners in supporting student success.

P. Describe how the LEA may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

If all other reasonably available sources of funding have been exhausted, Blount County Schools may use Title I, Part A parent and family engagement funds, as allowable, to provide literacy training and resources that help parents support their children's academic achievement. The district provides families with literacy materials through the Blount County Family Engagement Center, where parents may check out books, educational games, and other literacy resources to use at home with their children. The Family Engagement Center also maintains a lending library of parenting books that families may borrow to strengthen their ability to support their children's academic, social, and emotional development. In addition, the district may offer family literacy workshops and partner with schools, public libraries, and community organizations to provide parents with strategies and resources that promote literacy and lifelong learning.

Q. Describe how the LEA may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

Blount County Schools may use Title I, Part A parent and family engagement funds, as allowable and when reasonable and necessary, to reduce barriers that prevent parents from participating in school-related meetings, workshops, conferences, and family engagement activities. Such expenditures may include transportation assistance, child care, translation and interpretation services, accessible meeting materials, and other reasonable supports that enable parents to fully participate in activities designed to improve student achievement.

To increase participation, the district provides family engagement opportunities at flexible times, including morning and evening meetings, offers virtual participation options when appropriate, and hosts meetings at schools, the Blount County Family Engagement Center, and other community locations. Interpreters and translated materials are provided for multilingual families to ensure meaningful access to information and participation in school and district events. Through these efforts, the district strives to eliminate barriers and increase meaningful family engagement for all parents.

R. Describe how the LEA may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

The Blount County School District will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement, including literacy strategies, the effective use of technology, and other topics that foster meaningful parent and family engagement. Parent training sessions are offered throughout the year based on identified needs and parent requests and may include homework support, reading and mathematics strategies, understanding academic standards and assessments, digital resources, and ways to support learning at home.

The Blount County Schools Family Engagement Center serves as a central hub for these activities. The Center houses the Parent Lending Library, which offers books, educational games, parenting resources, and instructional materials that families may check out to use at home with their children.

The district also develops parent leaders by encouraging parents who participate in trainings and Family Engagement Center activities to share successful strategies and resources with other families. Parent leadership is fostered through the District Parent Advisory Council, school PTOs, family engagement events, workshops, and other collaborative activities where parents have opportunities to mentor one another, share experiences, and, when appropriate, assist with parent presentations or facilitate discussions alongside school staff. Parents demonstrating leadership may also be invited to serve on school and district committees, participate in the development and review of parent and family engagement plans, and provide input on district initiatives.

Through these efforts, Blount County Schools equips parents with the knowledge and resources to support their own children's learning while building the leadership capacity of parents to encourage and increase the involvement of other families throughout the district.

S. Describe how the local education agency may 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 such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.

Blount County Schools recognize that parents have varying schedules and responsibilities that may affect their ability to participate in school meetings. To maximize parent involvement, schools offer conferences and family engagement activities at a variety of times, including morning, afternoon, and evening hours, whenever feasible. Virtual conferences and meetings may also be offered to provide additional flexibility for families.

For parents who are unable to attend conferences at school, teachers and other school personnel will make reasonable efforts to communicate through telephone conferences, virtual meetings, email, or other appropriate methods. When appropriate and feasible, schools may arrange home visits or in-home conferences by teachers or other educators working directly with participating children, particularly when such efforts will strengthen the partnership between home and school.

Through flexible scheduling, multiple communication options, and individualized outreach, Blount County Schools strives to remove barriers to participation and ensure all parents have meaningful opportunities to engage in their children's education.

T. Describe how the local education agency may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

Blount County Schools is committed to continuously improving parent and family engagement by researching, adopting, and implementing evidence-based and model approaches that strengthen partnerships between families and schools. District Federal Programs personnel attend state and national conferences, professional development opportunities, and workshops to learn effective family engagement practices and remain informed of current research and requirements.

Strategies and resources gained through these learning opportunities are shared with school administrators, teachers, and family engagement leaders and are incorporated into district and school Parent and Family Engagement Plans, professional learning, and family engagement activities. The district also reviews parent survey data, stakeholder feedback, and program evaluation results to identify successful practices and make continuous improvements.

Examples of these model approaches include expanding the use of the Blount County Family Engagement Center, increasing access through virtual and flexible meeting options, providing multilingual communication and resources, strengthening parent leadership through advisory councils, and fostering community partnerships that support student learning and family engagement.

U. Describe how the LEA may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.

Blount County Schools maintains a District Parent Advisory Council to provide input and advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in programs supported under Title I, Part A.

Each school is invited to recommend parents and guardians who represent the diverse populations served within the district. District personnel contact interested parents and invite them to serve on the advisory council.

The District Parent Advisory Council meets twice a year at the Blount County Professional Learning Center. To encourage participation, meetings are scheduled at varying times, including both daytime and evening sessions, based on parent feedback. During these meetings, parents review district and school Parent and Family Engagement Plans, provide recommendations for improvement, discuss family engagement activities and initiatives, and offer input on the use of Title I parent and family engagement funds and other programs that support student success.

Recommendations from the District Parent Advisory Council are considered in the development and revision of the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Following parent review and recommendation, the plan is presented to the Blount County Board of Education for approval. Once approved, the plan is distributed annually through publication on the district website, notification via the district communication system, and postings on the district's social media platforms. Paper copies of the plan are available upon request, ensuring all families have access to the information.

V. Describe how the LEA may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

There are numerous opportunities for Blount County Schools to engage community-based organizations, businesses, and faith-based partners in parent and family engagement activities. Community members regularly participate alongside parents at school and district-sponsored events such as the annual Radiothon, Mid-Summer Nights Fun, family engagement nights, and other community events that promote student success and strengthen school-family partnerships.

The district partners with organizations such as Karing for Kids, the Blount County Education Foundation, the Blount County Literacy Council, and the Helping Families Initiative through the Blount County District Attorney's Office to provide resources, services, and support that strengthen family engagement and remove barriers to student success. Local churches and faith-based organizations also serve as valuable partners by providing meeting space, assisting with translation and transportation, donating clothing and school supplies, and connecting families with community resources and support services.

Local businesses and community organizations support parent and family engagement by sponsoring workshops and events focused on topics such as technology, financial literacy, career readiness, health and wellness, and other areas identified through parent feedback. Community partners also contribute books, educational materials, and other resources to the Blount County Family Engagement Center and Parent Lending Library and provide opportunities for parents and students to explore college and career pathways together.

Community-based organizations, businesses, and faith-based partners are encouraged to volunteer at family engagement events, participate on advisory councils and planning committees, and collaborate with schools to develop meaningful parent involvement opportunities. Through these partnerships, Blount County Schools strengthens the connection among families, schools, and the community to support student achievement and overall well-being.

Sec. 1116(f)

W. Describe how the local education agency will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Blount County Schools uses the results of its annual Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation to design evidence-based strategies that strengthen family engagement and improve student achievement. Data collected through the Districtwide Parent and Family Engagement Survey, school-level parent surveys, the Annual Title I Evaluation, participation records, and stakeholder feedback are analyzed to identify strengths, barriers to participation, and areas for improvement. Each school's Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) team reviews the evaluation results and incorporates appropriate family engagement strategies into its school improvement planning process.

At the district level, the District Parent Advisory Council reviews evaluation data and provides recommendations for improving parent and family engagement activities, communication, and support services. The district uses this information to revise the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy, improve family engagement initiatives, develop professional learning for staff, and ensure that resources are aligned with the needs of families. Evidence-based strategies may include expanding flexible meeting options, increasing multilingual communication and translation services, strengthening the use of the Blount County Family Engagement Center, enhancing parent workshops, and increasing opportunities for parent leadership and involvement in district planning.

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy is developed jointly with, and agreed upon by, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. Documentation maintained by the district includes:

- District Parent Advisory Council meeting agendas and minutes
- Sign-in sheets
- Collaborative planning materials and presentations
- Annual Title I Evaluation results
- District and school Parent and Family Engagement Survey results

To ensure meaningful participation by all families, surveys are provided in both English and Spanish, and interpreters are available for District Parent Advisory Council meetings and school-based parent meetings, as needed. School forms, correspondence, report cards, district progress monitoring reports, and state assessment results are provided in languages parents can understand whenever practicable. In addition, the district website, mobile application, and electronic messaging systems provide translation features that improve communication and accessibility for multilingual families.

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by:

Parent participation in the development and annual review of this policy is evidenced through parent survey responses and the work of the District Parent Advisory Council, which meets each fall and spring. Documentation maintained by the district includes survey results, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, PowerPoint presentations, meeting minutes, and Annual Title I Evaluation results.