District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2026-2027

Mission

We engage, equip, and empower all scholars to achieve their unique potential.

Vision

Where dreams are inspired and excellence is achieved.

Motto

Writing success stories, one student at a time.

Values

- Professionalism
- Accountability and excellence
- Nurturing, safe environments
- Transparent communication
- Honesty, integrity, and ethics
- Everyone contributing to student success
- Relationships, equity, and inclusion
- Students as our top priority

Statement of Purpose

The Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Program was developed to provide parents and families of Duncanville ISD with districtwide resources and opportunities that support academic success by fostering meaningful relationships and promoting academic awareness. We believe that when families, schools, and the community work together to support and encourage students, academic achievement, self-confidence, and positive life choices improve.

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy provides strategies to ensure that requirements under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA, 2015) are carried out as we continue to “write success stories, one student at a time.”

Duncanville ISD is guided by the statutory definition of parent and family engagement and expects Title I schools to carry out programs, activities, and procedures consistent with ESSA Section 1116. Family engagement includes regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning and school activities and recognizes parents and caregivers as integral partners in their child’s education.

Implementation of District Family and Community Engagement Components

Respecting Parents and Families as Partners in the Education of Their Children

- Duncanville ISD respects parents and families as partners in the education of their children. The district is committed to clear, transparent, friendly, and culturally responsive communication; equitable access to information; and intentional collaboration to support student success.
- All teachers and staff will be educated, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of family contributions; how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to coordinate and implement parent programs; and how to build strong ties between home and school. Duncanville ISD will also involve parents and family representatives in the planning and development of professional learning for teachers, principals, and other educators so family engagement strategies are meaningful, culturally responsive, and reflective of family input.

- Families are welcomed to participate in the development, evaluation, and annual review of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Title I Program. Families are also encouraged to participate in review of the District Improvement Plan and Campus Improvement Plans. The district policy is reviewed annually, discussed through Family and Community Engagement Steering Committee meetings and campus improvement processes, and posted on the District Title I and FACE website.
- Duncanville ISD will provide opportunities throughout the year for parents and caregivers to share input and voice concerns about family engagement practices, programming, and school support. The district and campuses will communicate how family feedback is considered and, when appropriate, used to improve practices.
- The district is committed to ensuring engagement opportunities reflect diverse family structures and will support the inclusion of caregivers who contribute to a student's learning, including extended family members when appropriate.
- To support equitable access, the district will ensure that parent and family events are held at convenient times and locations and may provide additional support to promote engagement.

Facilitating Coordination and Support for Families

- Duncanville ISD will ensure coordination and technical assistance to meet the needs of parents through various district and campus programs.
- Campus Family Engagement Liaisons will collaborate with campus and district administrators to provide support, training, and assistance with building and promoting family engagement through scheduled meetings and ongoing communication. Campuses will receive parenting resources that address relevant topics designed to support parent education and engagement. Liaisons will help ensure communication about engagement opportunities is accessible to families, including bilingual communication.
- To promote accessibility and maximize participation, Duncanville ISD will communicate available supports such as childcare or other family resources in event announcements when applicable. Family Engagement Liaisons may share campus schedules, engagement opportunities, and relevant updates through campus newsletters or other communication systems to help ensure consistent outreach.
- Campuses will regularly communicate available volunteer and family participation opportunities, including information about how families may participate consistent with district safety and volunteer requirements.
- Community nonprofit organizations and businesses approved within district guidelines may be invited to family events to offer services, provide resources, and partner with families.

Building Capacity for Effective Engagement

- Duncanville ISD will provide capacity-building opportunities to ensure effective engagement of families and to support partnerships among schools, the community, and families.
- Title I campuses will hold at least two meetings annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered at the campus level. These meetings will be publicized in a variety of ways, including websites, call-outs or email notices, marquees, social media, and flyers sent home. Meeting documents will be provided in English and Spanish, and a translator will be provided, to the extent practicable, for parents and caregivers who speak languages other than English.
- Parent conferences will be held after the first marking period during which the school-parent compact will be described and explained, in addition to the grade-level curriculum, assessment instruments such as STAAR, and benchmarks of student progress. Conferences may be requested by a teacher or parent as needed. Conferences will reflect student needs and include opportunities to connect families with school or community supports when appropriate. Communication during conferences should be welcoming, responsive, and sufficiently focused so families feel heard and supported.

- Parents will be provided with resources and training at the campus and district levels to build their capacity to support student learning at home. Trainings will be relevant to current learning expectations and may include homework support, math and literacy practices, reading resources, technology resources and learning platforms, interpretation of student assessment information, social-emotional learning, and college and career readiness. Guidance should help families understand instructional approaches used in classrooms so they can more effectively support learning at home.
- These learning opportunities will acknowledge that families may come from countries or educational backgrounds where instructional approaches differ and will provide support to help families navigate and engage with the curriculum effectively.
- Family learning opportunities may include understanding Special Education, Section 504, IEP processes, intervention systems, accommodations, available services, and ways families can advocate for and support students receiving specialized services.
- Resources may be provided for home use such as textbooks, syllabi, instructional guides, digital resources, or other relevant materials.

Collaborating Across Departments and Programs

- Duncanville ISD will collaborate with departments and programs such as Bilingual Education, Career and Technology, College, Career and Military Readiness, Advanced Academics, Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Programs, Special Education including Special Populations, Health Services, and Student Services to provide students and families with current information and skills focused on academics and life beyond school.
- Departments will work together to ensure families receive clear, parent-friendly communication that avoids unnecessary jargon so caregivers can understand program options and available support. Collaboration will include efforts to help families understand how to navigate services for students with special needs, including processes used to determine eligibility for programs such as Special Education or Section 504. Families will be provided information about how students are identified, how supports are determined, and who to contact when questions or concerns arise.
- Campus and district teams will continue to build coordinated communication so families experience consistent messaging across departments and feel confident accessing programs or services that best support their child's needs.
- Title I campuses will provide families with understandable information regarding Title I services, family engagement opportunities, and the use of Title I funds designated to support parent and family engagement.

Evaluating Family Engagement Efforts

- Duncanville ISD will conduct annual evaluations of the content and effectiveness of the family engagement policy to improve the academic quality of schools. The district will assess the needs of families and students using tools such as surveys, questionnaires, feedback forms, and family meetings.
- Evaluations will gather feedback regarding barriers that may prevent greater participation; communication efforts; the content and effectiveness of the policy; family learning needs; accessibility of engagement opportunities; and whether families feel welcomed, heard, and equipped to support their children.
- To help reduce barriers, families will be encouraged to ask questions, request help, and communicate needs. The district will promote a welcoming environment where families feel supported in seeking assistance. Parents who require help completing enrollment or other school-related forms such as FERPA will be offered support.
- Findings from evaluations will be used by the district and campuses to design strategies that support more effective family engagement, including addressing language and access barriers, improving

clarity and consistency of communication, strengthening promotion of family events and involvement opportunities, and expanding family learning opportunities aligned to identified needs.
- The district will promote family events in multiple formats to increase awareness, recognizing that not all families have access to digital communication. Printed and digital materials will be used as appropriate. Feedback options will remain available through district and campus channels.

Involving Parents and Families in Title I School Activities

- Duncanville ISD is committed to creating safe, positive, and family-friendly environments that promote meaningful family engagement. Campus office staff will follow district standards of customer service, including greeting, listening, responding, and communicating respectfully with families. Campuses will receive ongoing support and training to promote consistent customer service and welcoming interactions.
- A welcoming environment means families are greeted respectfully, listened to, provided clear information, connected to appropriate assistance, and given appropriate follow-up when concerns require additional action.
- Each Title I campus will have a designated Family and Community Engagement staff member or other assigned personnel to enhance family relations and encourage active participation in the school community. The district will continue to explore supports that assist families with technology needs and access.
- All parent and family events will be communicated in English and Spanish, or in a language families can understand to the extent possible. Translators or translation devices will be provided as needed for families who speak languages other than English. Notification of events will be provided well in advance, no less than one week, so families may plan accordingly.
- Activities will be offered at various times, including days, evenings, and weekends, to support participation. Childcare will be provided, to the extent practicable, to remove barriers for families.
- To encourage family presence on campus, schools may provide appropriate space for parents to visit and eat lunch with their children when possible. Campuses may rotate availability of space as needed to support student supervision and safety.
- To ensure safe and efficient daily transitions, campuses will communicate expectations for arrival and dismissal procedures, including designated pick-up and drop-off locations, crosswalks, and posted safety signs. Schools will promote respectful interactions among staff, students, and families during daily transitions, including shared spaces such as cafeterias and hallways.
- Campuses are encouraged to maintain friendly, empathetic communication between teachers, students, and families to foster a positive climate and strengthen family-school relationships.

With the strategies outlined in this Parent and Family Engagement Policy, along with coordination across departments and campuses, Duncanville ISD strives to build meaningful partnerships with families that strengthen student learning, family voice, and academic achievement.