

School, Parent, and Family Engagement Policy

North Sumner Elementary

2026–27 School Year

Revision Date: September 22, 2026

Title I, Part A

NORTH SUMNER ELEMENTARY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, North Sumner Elementary receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement specific parent and family engagement activities. The policy is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

North Sumner Elementary agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of ESSA.
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to families of participating children, and make the policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, including information and school reports required under Section 1111 of ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of ESSA is not satisfactory to families of participating children, submit family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the LEA.

North Sumner Elementary will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- Families 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.
- Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

North Sumner Elementary will involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including the school parent and family engagement policy and school improvement planning. Family input will be solicited through the Annual Title I Meeting, family engagement events, surveys/feedback opportunities, parent-teacher conferences, and other school communications. The school will provide opportunities for families to formulate suggestions, participate as appropriate in decisions relating to their child's education, and receive timely responses to suggestions.

The policy and family engagement activities will be reviewed with representation from:

- School leadership and staff
- Families
- Students
- Community partners

North Sumner Elementary will review the policy at least annually and revise it as needed based on family feedback, school needs, Title I requirements, and available resources.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

North Sumner Elementary will conduct an Annual Title I Meeting at a convenient time and will encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend. The 2026–27 Annual Title I Meeting was scheduled for August 27, 2026. The meeting is designed to inform families about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the program, family rights and responsibilities, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Annual Title I Meeting will provide families with information about available Title I resources and opportunities for family involvement. A copy of the revised policy will be made available to families. When appropriate, information will also be shared through the school website, school communications, family conferences, and other accessible formats.

COMMUNICATIONS

North Sumner Elementary will provide families of participating children with timely information about Title I programs, meetings, and activities. Communication will be provided in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language families can understand. Alternative formats will be provided upon request when practicable.

- Schoolwide communication folder and/or student take-home materials.
- Skyward Parent Portal for current student and grade information.
- Google Classroom and teacher communication systems, as applicable.
- Remind and other school-approved digital communication platforms.
- Positive phone calls and direct communication with families.
- School website, flyers, calendars, and event reminders.
- Parent-teacher conferences and opportunities for two-way communication.
- Family meetings and events scheduled at varied times when practicable.

The school will make reasonable efforts to remove barriers to participation. When feasible and allowable with Title I funds, the school may provide supports such as refreshments, child-care-related supports, transportation assistance, or other supports directly related to parent and family engagement.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

North Sumner Elementary will jointly develop and annually review a school-parent compact with families of participating children. The compact will outline how families, students, and school staff share responsibility for improved student academic achievement and how the school and families will build a partnership to help students meet Tennessee’s high academic standards.

The school leadership team will review and revise the compact with representation from staff and administration and will seek family and student input so that stakeholders have meaningful opportunities to contribute. The compact will be shared with families and incorporated into family communication and Title I activities.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, North Sumner Elementary will involve families of children served in Title I, Part A programs in decisions about how funds reserved for parent and family engagement are spent. The school will share information about the family engagement budget and seek family input on activities and resources that support meaningful engagement and student academic achievement. Planned uses may include family learning events, instructional take-home resources, refreshments connected to allowable family engagement activities, communication materials, and incentives/materials that support participation.

Family input will be considered during annual planning and throughout the school year as needs arise. Expenditures will follow district and Title I requirements.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

North Sumner Elementary will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Federal, State, and local programs and community resources. Coordination will be designed to encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children.

- Partner with local churches and community organizations to connect families with resources and supports.
- Coordinate with community health and wellness providers when appropriate.
- Invite community partners to support school events, family learning activities, and student enrichment.
- Connect families with school and district resources, including preschool/kindergarten readiness information and other transition supports.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

North Sumner Elementary will provide training and support to teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and staff, with assistance from families when appropriate, on the value and utility of family contributions and on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners. Staff capacity-building will be connected to school needs and may include:

- Professional learning on effective two-way family communication.
- Strategies for communicating student progress and instructional expectations in family-friendly language.
- Use of school-approved communication platforms and consistent schoolwide communication routines.
- Family feedback to help staff understand barriers to participation and strengthen family-school partnerships.
- Opportunities for staff to share successful family engagement practices and resources.

North Sumner Elementary will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request. Family engagement events will be offered across the school year, with varied topics, grade levels, dates, and times when practicable.

2026–27 FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES

The following activities reflect North Sumner Elementary’s planned family engagement opportunities for 2026–27. Activities may be adjusted based on school needs, family feedback, scheduling, and available resources.

Activity	Timing	Family Engagement Purpose
Annual Title I Meeting	August 27, 2026	Inform families about Title I requirements, family rights, school plans, the school-parent compact, and available resources.
One Book Blitz / Schoolwide Family Literacy Event	School-year event	Build family engagement around shared reading, literacy activities, book access, and schoolwide reading culture.
Roary’s Winter Reading Challenge	Winter break / snow days	Encourage reading at home through reading-minute goals and student incentives.
Young Author’s Day / Writing Activities	Spring	Encourage students and families to celebrate writing, authorship, and literacy.
Publishing Party / Grade-Level Literacy Celebrations	Spring	Provide opportunities for families to celebrate student writing and academic growth.
Kindergarten Registration / Readiness Support	Spring	Provide families with registration support, readiness resources, and connections to school personnel.
Pastries with Parents	Throughout the year	Create welcoming opportunities for families to read, connect, and participate in school activities.
K–1 Easter Egg Hunt and Family Celebration	Spring	Support family-school connections through a literacy/seasonal engagement activity.
First Responder Day and Ice Cream Social	May 11, 2027	Strengthen school-community-family relationships and recognize community helpers.

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

North Sumner Elementary may implement the following discretionary activities, as appropriate and allowable, to strengthen family-school partnerships and support student academic achievement:

- Involve families in the development or review of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide literacy training and family learning resources when allowable and when other reasonably available sources of funding have been exhausted.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including allowable transportation or child-care-related costs, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

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- Provide opportunities for families to share successful engagement strategies and encourage other families to participate.
- Arrange school meetings at a variety of times and, when appropriate and practicable, provide alternative opportunities for families who cannot attend scheduled meetings.
- Adopt and implement effective approaches to improving parent and family engagement based on school needs and family feedback.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in family engagement activities.

MONITORING, EVALUATION, AND CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

North Sumner Elementary will monitor implementation of this policy throughout the 2026–27 school year. Family participation, feedback, communication effectiveness, and the connection between family engagement activities and student academic support will be reviewed to determine areas for improvement. Feedback may be gathered through surveys, conversations, event sign-ins, parent-teacher conferences, family meetings, and other school-approved methods.

The school will use family feedback and participation information to make adjustments to communication practices, meeting times, activities, supports, and the use of Title I family engagement funds. The policy will be reviewed and revised as needed to meet the changing needs of North Sumner Elementary families and the school.

DISTRIBUTION AND AVAILABILITY

The revised 2026–27 School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be made available to families of participating children and to the local community through school communication methods, including the school website and printed copies when requested. The school will make reasonable efforts to ensure that the policy is accessible and understandable to families.

APPROVAL / REVIEW

School Name	North Sumner Elementary
School Year	2026–27
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This policy is intended to align with the Tennessee Department of Education Traditional School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Template and Section 1116 of ESSA.