Title I District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2026-2027

Preface

Rapides Parish Schools receives federal Title I funds to support learning in schools. Federal law requires the district to write this policy with families, not only for them.

This policy answers three questions:

- What does the district commit to doing?
- What can your family expect to receive?
- How can your family take part in decisions?

How This Policy Is Written & Reviewed

This policy is developed jointly with families and reviewed every year. Each year the district distributes a working copy to schools so that families, principals, and Community Engagement Coordinators can edit.

The Parent Advisory Council reviews the compiled feedback and approves the revision. The approved policy is then distributed to every family in a Title I school.

Families are also involved in developing the district Title I plan and any school support and improvement plans, not only this policy.

District Parent Advisory Council

The council meets three times during the school year. Meetings are held at the School Board Office Building, and a virtual option is available at every meeting.

Meeting dates are set and published before the school year begins so that families can plan around them.

- September 10, 2026
- January 14, 2027
- April 15, 2027

Attendance is tracked by feeder school so the district can see which communities are and are not being reached.

Schools recruit council members at Open House and through a QR code on a poster in each school.

How The District & Schools Contact Families

Notice of every council meeting, including the date, time, place, and agenda, goes out through as many of the following as apply:

- Email
- ClassDojo
- Printed flyers and posted schedules
- QR codes on printed materials

All materials are provided in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.

Information Families Receive Each Year

Every Title I school posts, sends, and makes available on request:

- The annual What Is Title I meeting; changed to “What is Federal Programs?” this year
- The school-parent compact: what it is, how it is developed, and what it contains
- This District Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- The Parent Right-to-Know letter
- The parent complaint procedure, district and state

The School Wide Plan

Each Title I school writes a School Wide Plan describing how it will improve student learning. The District Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator helps schools explain the plan to families in plain language, including its goals, purpose, and components, and helps families join their school’s planning team.

Meetings & Workshops at the School Level

Schools offer meetings at times families can actually attend. Meetings may be held at the school or at community centers, libraries, and other locations near the school.

Schools record attendance at family engagement events and use it to plan the following year.

Programs & Training Offered To Families

- Virtual and hybrid meeting options
- Parent-teacher messaging through ClassDojo
- Family Nights in math, literacy, STEM and STEAM, and writing
- Support for parent-teacher organizations, parent clubs, and the Parent Advisory Council, including work across feeder schools
- School-level workshops on testing, curriculum, homework, and new programs

Training for School Staff

The District Parent and Family Engagement Facilitator trains administrators, teachers, support staff, pupil service personnel, and other staff on:

- Recognizing and using the contributions families make.
- Reaching out to and communicating with families as equal partners.
- Working with families and the community.
- Conducting effective parent-teacher conferences.

Annual Evaluation

The district surveys families each year on whether their engagement needs are being met. Surveys are sent electronically.

The district tells families what the survey is for and reports back what the results showed and what changed because of them.

The evaluation examines the content and effectiveness of this policy, including barriers that keep families from taking part, with particular attention to families facing economic hardship, disability, limited English proficiency, or limited literacy. Findings are used to revise this policy and to plan the following year.

Support to Schools

The district provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support Title I schools need to plan and run effective family engagement, including help writing school-level policies and compacts.

Title I Funds Reserved For Family Engagement

Federal law requires districts above the funding threshold to reserve at least one percent of their Title I allocation for parent and family engagement, and to involve families in deciding how it is spent.

Adoption

Parents, principals, and Community Engagement Coordinators edited the previous version on August 3, 2026, and this reflects what they asked for.

This policy was reviewed and revised with families and approved by the Rapides Parish Title I District Parent Advisory Council on Thursday, September 10, 2026.

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