Southwest Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2026 - 2027

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Southwest 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 a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Southwest Elementary School 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement 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 providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the 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 the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- 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:

  (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
  (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
  (C) 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; and
  (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

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JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Southwest Elementary School will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Families will be involved in the development of Southwest's parent and family engagement policy by:

- inclusion on Southwest Elementary's Strategic Planning Team (SPT).
- representing Southwest Elementary on Onslow County's District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC).
- providing Fall and Spring Parent Surveys.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Southwest Elementary School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Southwest Elementary School will hold an annual meeting during the fall Open House to:

- inform parents and families about the school's facilities and its Title I Schoolwide designation.
- inform families of the requirements of Title I and Southwest Elementary's participation.
- provide parents/families with information regarding upcoming opportunities to participate in school and district events.
- inform parents of NC states standards and how Southwest Elementary is preparing students to meet those standards.
- distribute parent resources with the topics of "Homework Help," "Motivation and Success," "Learning from Your Mistakes," and a variety of reading strategies that can be implemented at home.
- information shared at the annual meeting will be posted on Class Dojo and the school website for parents who were unable to attend the face-to-face event.

COMMUNICATIONS

Southwest Elementary will take the following actions to provide to families of participating children:

- timely information about the Title I programs.
- flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, childcare or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand.
- Southwest Elementary's Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be made available for parent and public viewing via a link to the document on the school's website, and a link shared with parents on Class Dojo.

- monthly Newsletters, social media, and the all-call system will be utilized to inform families of upcoming events, meetings, and programs.
- Student progress in all subjects will be shared with parents twice per grading period.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Southwest Elementary will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- Southwest Elementary will revise and vote on the school's Parent/Student/Teacher compact annually in conjunction with our spring strategic planning meeting. The approved compact will be printed in triplicate form with Southwest's name in the heading. The compact will be included in the registration packet for all students at the beginning of the school year, and also included in the registration packet for families registering after the beginning of school.

COORDINATING AND INTEGRATING PARENT INVOLVEMENT

Southwest Elementary coordinates our programs and activities with the following staff and programs to support parent and family participation in the education of their children to include those with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) and families of Students with Disabilities (SWD):

- all parents will be invited to participate on school committees.
- Exceptional Children's department provides Spanish versions of all forms and documents.
- parent communication to Multilingual Learners will be provided in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

In addition, Southwest Elementary will assist in successful transitions by coordinating with the following staff and programs:

- Multilingual learners, English language tutors, and district leaders
- Head Start
- Public Preschool and middle school
- School nurse, counselor, and social worker

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Southwest Elementary will take the following actions to involve the families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

- sharing/approving the budget decisions through the Strategic Planning Team.
- asking parents to provide input for workshops through a fall Title I Parent Information Survey and as members of the Strategic Planning Team.

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COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Southwest Elementary will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement 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 families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- notifying parents and families of assistance from outside agencies such as: food banks, United Way, church programs for assistance, recreation/sports opportunities, Boy and Girl Scouts, Onslow County Public Library, Christmas Cheer, Salvation Army, Jacksonville Rotary, and Onslow County Toy Drive.
- enabling distribution of food donated by local churches, businesses, and the CHEW! Program.
- accessing services as needed through PRIDE, Onslow County Partnership for Children, Boys and Girls Club of Onslow County, and YMCA.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Southwest Elementary will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

- sending monthly schoolwide newsletters.
- holding parent conferences at least two times per year to assist in helping parents understand the state curriculum and monitor their child's progress.
- providing literature and pamphlets to help families work with their children at home.

Southwest Elementary will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

- offering parent and family engagement activities at flexible times.
- encouraging parents and families to attend other school events and conferences, volunteer in classrooms and observe in the Title I Program.