# Governor Mifflin Cumru Elementary

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement section of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116(b) requires each Title I school to develop a written parent and family engagement policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1116. The school must ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parents of Title I children in a format and language the parents can understand.

This policy was/is:

- ❑ developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents and family members of Title I children;
- ❑ written in an understandable format and provided in a language parents can understand;
- ❑ distributed to all parents and family members of Title I children;
- ❑ made available to the local community; and
- ❑ updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents, family members, and the school.

The Governor Mifflin School District invites parents to be partners and decision-makers in their children's educational programs. This parent involvement policy was developed with the help of the teachers and parents of Cumru Elementary School students. The home-school partnership is a valued component of each child's education. Cumru Elementary School supports parental involvement and participation in the educational process through the Title 1 federally funded school-wide reading program.

To endorse this partnership of the School-wide Title 1 Program, Cumru Elementary School will:

- Involve parents in the review and improvement of the Cumru Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Policy *(ESSA, Section 1116(b)(1)* by providing families with policy updates and allowing for feedback and input.

- Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, in which all families shall be invited, and encouraged to attend where we shall inform families of their school's participation as a Title 1 school and explain the requirements and rights for parents to be involved *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(1).*

- Invite parents and families to participate in various literacy events throughout the year and offer a flexible number of meetings, in the morning and/or the evening (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(2)).*

- Request input and feedback from parents and families regarding the Title 1 programming (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(3)).*

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program, including the planning, review, and improvement of Cumru's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(3)).*

- Provide parents with timely information about the Title 1 program through an annual meeting and through various digital media *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(A)).*

- Provide information regarding curriculum and assessments used to measure student progress, as well as grade level achievement levels based on the Pennsylvania academic standards, during Back to School Night programs *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)4)(B)).*

- Meet with parents during conferences throughout the year to discuss student progress and formulate decisions relating to the education of their children and ensure a follow-through in a timely manner *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(C)).*

- Involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Cumru Elementary School Schoolwide Program Plan under Section 1114 per ESSA (ESSA, Section 1116(5)) by providing families with plan updates and allowing for parent feedback and input.

- The Cumru Elementary School-Parent Compact will be developed with parents and family members by gathering input at a family meeting. The compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the state's high standards.
    - The compact shall:
        - describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served to meet the challenging state academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, volunteering in their child's classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time *(ESSA, Section (d)(1));*
        - address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
            - annual parent-teacher conferences during which the compact shall be referenced as it relates to the individual child's achievement
            - trimester reports to parents on their children's progress
            - reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities
            - regular, two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand (*ESSA, Section 1116(d)(2)(A-D)).*
- Provide assistance to parents and family members in understanding the challenging academic standards, assessments, and monitoring of a child's progress by holding conferences, hosting literacy events, and meeting with families at Back to School Night *(ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(1)).*

- Provide materials and training during Family Literacy Events to parents and family members on ways to work with their children to improve literacy academic achievement and ways to use technology. Materials will also be made available in our Parent Resource Center (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(1)).*

- Utilize professional development sessions to share and expand upon ways teachers, specialized personnel, and other staff members can communicate with parents and family members as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build a school community relationship between parents, family members and the school (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(3)).*

- Integrate family and community literacy involvement through Preschool Leap into Literacy Nights, Family Literacy Events, the Reading is Fundamental Program, and the Little Lending Library that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children *(ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(4)).*

- Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and family members of participating children in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand through digital media (i.e. Class Dojo, Skylert), as well as hard copies of the information. (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(5)).*

- Provide involvement opportunities through Family Literacy Events that include parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children. (*ESSA, Section 1116(7)(f)).*