

Parental Partnership: Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The school has adopted a policy addressing the importance of parent and family engagement. The school and the board of education recognizes the rights of parents or guardians to be fully informed of all information relevant to their children who participate in programs and projects funded by Title I (Elementary and Secondary Education Act) [1116(a)(1)]. The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy was jointly developed with and agreed on, by parents and family members of Title I participating children [1116(a)(2)(A)]. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is provided to parents, families, and community partners in an understandable format and is updated to meet the needs of the included stakeholders [1116(b)(1)]. In addition to existing policies and guidelines, the school also recognizes the need for a policy that meets the requirements under Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 (P.L. 114-95). The school will ensure parental involvement and family engagement in these programs and projects by:

Building a Capacity for Parent and Family Engagement

Parents and family members of students are vital contributors in the education of their children. The school will ensure that all parents/guardians are involved in our school in a meaningful manner in order to improve student academic achievement. Two-way communication between the school and home, both verbal and written, provides a sound base for a good partnership to provide an effective educational program for all students. Full realization of the partnership will be achieved through on-going commitment and active participation by both home and school. The policy describes how federal and applicable state requirements for parental and family engagement will be met and sets the school's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and engagement. Specifically, we will do the following in order to build a capacity for parent/guardian involvement and engagement:

- a. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students 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 [1116 (d)(1)];
- b. Provide assistance (materials and education) to parent/guardians of children served in understanding such topics as the school's curriculum, assessments, and proficiency level expectations, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children [1116(e)(2)]. Efforts are made to assist parents in understanding challenging State academic content standards and the academic achievement levels established for students, the school curriculum, and school expectations and assessment results[1116(e)(1)];
- c. Educate all school staff in the value and utility of contribution of parents/guardians; and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents/guardians as equal partners; implement and coordinator parent/guardian programs, and build ties between parents/guardians and the school [1116(e)(3)];
- d. Coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent/guardian involvement programs and activities that encourage and support parents/guardians in more fully participating in the education of their children [1116(e)(4)];
- e. Ensure that information related to school and parent/guardian programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents/guardians of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand [1116(e)(5)];

- f. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement and involvement activities to ensure a successful partnership amongst the school, parents, and the community to improve student achievement [1116(e)(14)].

Providing the coordination, technical assistance, and support necessary to assist the school in planning and implementing effective parent/guardian involvement and engagement activities to improve the student academic achievement and school performance [1116(a)(2)(B)].

To the extent feasible and appropriate, parent and family engagement strategies will be coordinated and integrated with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs [1116(a)(2)(C)].

The following initiatives have been implemented at the school:

- a. Annual Title I Parent Meeting inform parents/guardians of Title I requirements, their rights to be involved and provide input in school policies and planning, and how progress is measured and how they receive feedback about their child's progress [1116(c)(1)].
- b. Parent and family meetings are scheduled throughout the year to provide parents of Title I children with a description and explanation about the school's curriculum, assessments, and proficiency level expectations. Efforts are made to assist parents of Title I children in understanding challenging State academic standards and the achievement levels established for students, the school curriculum, and school expectations and assessment results [1116(c)(4)(B)].
- c. Parents/guardians have the opportunity to make arrangements to speak to their child's teacher regarding their child's progress throughout the school year.
- d. Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled during the school year to give parents/guardians the opportunity to discuss and to get information pertaining to their child's academic progress.
- e. Progress reports and report cards are sent home to notify parents of their child's performance and progress.
- f. The principal will be available upon request to help parents/guardians better understand the state assessments.
- g. Parent learning events and materials to help parents and families develop and use at-home skills that support their child's academic and social development.
- h. Meetings are scheduled for parents to provide suggestions and direction relating to the education of their children and for the school to respond to any parent suggestions as soon as practicably possible [1116(c)(4)(C)].

Other activities that promote parent/guardian involvement and engagement (but not limited to):

- a. Schools assemblies/ceremonies (parents invited)
- b. Volunteer opportunities
- c. Classroom observations (as requested)
- d. Special event and reminder notices
- e. Parent Room with community resources listed and computer access
- f. Voice of Parent survey
- g. Athletic and extra-curricular events (as they occur)

In order to develop a partnership between the home and the school, and to build meaningful, consistent, and effective communication, the information regarding school programs is provided to parents/guardians in a timely manner according to the following ways [1116(c)(4)(A)]:

- a. Annual Title I Parent Meeting
- b. Annual Parent and Family School Improvement Meeting
- c. The Parent and Student Handbook
- d. Regular school and classroom newsletters
- e. The annual school calendar

- f. Report Cards
- g. Parent-Teacher conferences
- h. Parent and Family Engagement events
- i. The School-Parent Compact/Commitment to Excellence Contract
- j. Bilingual staff or translators are available for interpretation and translation of important documents for limited English proficient parents/guardians and families of migratory children
- k. School administration will meet with families who have limited English proficiency, families with members who have disabilities, families experiencing homelessness, and migratory families to provide information regarding support available to them [1116(f)]

Involving Parents/Guardians in the development of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Title I Plan, and School Improvement Planning

Parents/guardians will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy, and the joint development of the school improvement plan, the Title I Program, and the Parent and Family Engagement Plan [1116(a)(2)(F)], [1116(a)(3)(B)], [1116(c)(3)]. At least annually, the school, parents/guardians, and family members will be invited to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the school improvement plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and the Title I Program [1116(a)(2)(D)]. The school will offer a flexible number of meetings at different times to ensure as many parents/guardians as possible will have the opportunity to participate in the joint development and evaluation of the before-mentioned policies [1116(c)(2)].

The school, to the extent practicable, will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents/guardians with limited English proficiency, parents/guardians with disabilities, and parents/guardians of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians understand.

Conducting, with the involvement of parents, and evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of the school, including identify barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by Title I.

Parents/guardians, family, and school staff members will be asked to evaluate the effectiveness of parent and family engagement policy initiatives and the level of responsiveness to parent and family concerns. The findings of such an evaluation will be published and made available for review by parents/guardians and will be used to design strategies for more effective parent/guardian involvement. The evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy will identify [1116(a)(2)(D)]:

- a. Barriers to participation by parents, including parents who may be economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, limited literacy, or any racial or ethnic minority backgrounds;
- b. The needs of parents and family members in assisting with the learning of the children;
- c. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

All stakeholders will be given an opportunity to review, plan, and help improve the Title I programs, including parent and family engagement activities and strategies that are implemented with Title funds. Strategies and activities may include, but are not limited to [1116(a)(3)(D)]:

- a. Providing professional development for school staff on parent and family engagement strategies;
- b. Supporting parent, family, and community outreach programs;
- c. Best practices for increasing parent and family engagement;
- d. Collaborating with community partners or other vendors with expertise in increasing parent and family engagement.

Parents/guardians of participating children are responsible for submitting any comments and feedback on the plan if the Parent and Family Engagement Policy or if schoolwide plan is not satisfactory [1116(b)(4)], [1116(c)(5)]. Comments can be included in the formal survey given during planning and evaluation meetings, through open discussion, or through private means (mail, email, telephone) including anonymously. The feedback provided will be used by the school to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary, this Parent and Family Engagement Policy [1116(a)(2)(E)].

Jointly developing, with involvement of parents and the school, the school-parent compact and outlining shared responsibilities and means for improving student academic achievement.

The school-parent compact will address the importance of communication on an ongoing basis by the following means:

- a. Describing the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive learning environment that enables students to succeed academically by meeting state standards [1116(d)(1)];
- b. Describing the parents' responsibility to support their children's learning by participating in decisions relating to their children's education [1116(d)(1)];
- c. Sharing, at least annually, the compact during parent-teacher conferences as it relates to student achievement [1116(d)(2)(A)];
- d. Providing parents frequent reports to parents on their children's progress [1116(d)(2)(B)];
- e. Providing parents reasonable access to communicate with school staff on an individual or community wide basis [1116(d)(2)(C)];
- f. Providing parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, including observation of classroom activities [1116(d)(2)(C)];
- g. Ensuring two way and meaningful communication, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand [1116(d)(2)(D)].

Collaboration Statement

All stakeholders will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of the School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Stakeholders include staff, parents/guardians, board members and community partners. All stakeholders are encouraged to participate in and attend parent meetings and family events. Stakeholders will have the opportunity to provide the school with feedback through written surveys. Feedback provided to the school through communication and the written surveys will be reviewed for incorporation into the School Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.