

DISTRICT FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY: 2023-2024



Each year, the District Family Engagement Policy establishes the expectations and a description of Family Engagement in Title I schools. Schools can choose to adopt the district's policy or revise/adopt a school policy. Each school maintains a file of all parent/guardian comments received as part of the Family Engagement Policy planning process. This documentation is available for public review, and these comments, additional information related to guidelines on this policy or Title I law are available through the District's Title I Office (864-355-3356).

Overview of District Family Engagement Policy:

- Each school will present the district's Family Engagement Policy as the DRAFT. Title I school committees complete the final work on the Family Engagement Policy; however, all Title I school parents/guardians have opportunities to participate in the committee's work and/or to offer written or oral feedback;
- The DRAFT policy is presented to all parents/guardians for timely suggestions and recommendations to the documents, including at the annual Title I Family Orientation. All comments for the school level policy are presented to the planning committee to consider. The committee does not have to accept and include all input in the final document; however, the committee must review and consider all input. All comments are sent to the Title I Office for review for consideration in addition to attendance sheets, agendas, and minutes for all public meetings related to the development of the Family Engagement Policy (district and school).
- The FINAL policy will be distributed no later than October 31 of each year, and the school's Family Engagement Policy is submitted to the Title I Office.

Required components and core elements of the Title I District Family Engagement Policy:

Involve parents/guardians in the joint development and the process of school review and improvement of the local educational agency (district) and school plan:

- Review the purposes and major strategies of the Title I program and Family Engagement;
- Assist families in understanding topics such as the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local assessment, annual yearly progress, and effective monitoring of their child's academic work and achievement;
- Provide the opportunity for families of children served to participate in the district and school process of review and improvement by serving on planning committees and providing input by various means; and
- Review results of feedback, program evaluations, and achievement data for the annual school review and use these data as needed to modify Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective Parent and Family Engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Provide materials and training to enable families to work with children to support their academic achievement, such as through literacy training, curriculum training, and instructional technology;
- Provide training to school staff and principals to strengthen Parent and Family Engagement efforts, including outreach activities;
- Provide families information about Title I programs, services, Parent and Family Engagement opportunities, parental rights, plan review process, and school improvement levels;
- Provide appropriate support services for students to assist with the home-school connection and students' academic achievement; and

- Provide opportunities for families and teachers to coordinate efforts to support student and school achievement, encourage parent input on how educators can best assist their children in achieving educational goals, encourage parents/guardians to serve as trainers of other parents/guardians and educators where appropriate, and encourage joint planning and participation in academic and family skills trainings and use of school resources.

Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family involvement:

- Assist families in understanding state academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, and the process of how to monitor and collaborate to improve their child's achievement;
- Provide families with materials and training to improve the academic achievement of their children;
- Train educators and support services personnel, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of family contributions to the academic process and work with families as equal partners to implement and coordinate programs to strengthen ties between parents/guardians and schools;
- Coordinate and integrate Family Engagement programs and activities with schools and literacy programs to facilitate transitions;
- Provide opportunities for the participation of all parents/guardians, including those with limited English proficiency, those with disabilities, and those of migratory children, and provide information and school reports required under Title I law, section 1111, in an easy-to-read format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents understand;
- May include and involve parents in development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators for educational effectiveness and may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding;
- May pay reasonable and necessary expenses, if necessary, associated with transportation and childcare costs to enable participation in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- May arrange school and parent/guardian meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- May adopt and implement model approaches to improve Family Engagement;
- May establish a districtwide family advisory council to discuss matters related to family involvement;
- May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in Family Engagement activities;
- Provide other reasonable support for family involvement activities under this section as parents/guardians may request;
- Respond to parent/guardian concerns at the most appropriate District or school level(s) within 24 hours or first business day after receiving the comment; share the concerns or questions with other District officials as appropriate or required, and maintain a file of comments and concerns and their dispositions at appropriate local school and District levels as required by District or Title I procedures.

Coordinate and integrate Parent and Family Engagement strategies with Parent and Family Engagement strategies under other programs such as Head Start, Greenville First Steps, Parents as Teachers program, and State- run preschool programs.

Conduct, with the involvement of all parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background); use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement; and revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies described. Procedures will include the following:

- solicit parental input in all district wide and schoolwide Title I meetings to strengthen achievement efforts and Parent and Family Engagement in the educational decision making process;
- review parental activities related to literacy, numeracy, academic assistance, and Parent and Family Engagement.

Involve parents in the activities of all Title I schools:

- host an annual meeting of parents, school staff members, and appropriate support staff members to share effective activities for increasing Parent and Family Engagement;
- maintain participation records for all district wide Parent and Family Engagement activities;
- provide annual feedback on the effectiveness of Parent and Family Engagement.

Provide all parents of participating Title I students' access to this LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy by October 31 of each year.

- Provide all parents of students in Title I schools information about their right to know the qualifications of their children's teachers, paraprofessionals, or Substitute teachers.
- Use data gathered in the above activities so that educators and parents can:
 - strengthen the Title I plans and required documents;
 - design strategies to expand successful activities;
 - remove barriers for parental participation;
 - encourage volunteering in the classroom and in other school activities and participation in the educational decision-making process.