

District: Pearl Public School District
Section: L - Organizational Relations
Policy Code: LAA - Title I Parental Involvement (Engagement)
Policy:

TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Part I. General Expectations

While the schools have the primary responsibility for the formal education of the children and youth of the district, the Board recognizes that many governmental agencies and community organizations play a definite role in education. Therefore, it shall be the desire of the Board to establish positive working relationships with all other public and private organizations which contribute to the education process and to the general welfare of the citizens of the community.

Pearl Public School District Board reaffirms the school district's strong commitment to the role of parents in their children's education and to effective, comprehensive parental involvement. In this policy, "parent" is intended to include parents, guardians, and other family members involved in supervising the child's schooling. Parent and family engagement in a child's learning is a critical link to achieve academic success and to promote a safe and disciplined learning environment.

Schools and families will work together to ensure that the educational process includes quality learning at home, in school, and in the community. The following steps will be taken to achieve this goal:

1. The superintendent will assess the status of parent and family engagement by reviewing parental attendance and use of parent communication items. Review of existing policies and procedures and development of necessary regulations and procedures to support this policy, including a review of staff and budget support will be conducted by the superintendent.
2. The Board of Education will support parent and family engagement by seeking parental input on school system policies, including curriculum, facilities, and funding issues. Input from parents is solicited through surveys, school board meetings, and parent committees.

Pearl Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation various programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated through meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116 of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved and engaged in their child's education at school;

(C) that parents 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;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

Pearl Public School District uses a portion of Title I funds to support the Early Childhood Education Center located at 180 Mary Ann Drive. At the ECEC, a Pre-K Program is offered to eligible four-year-old children. The ECEC focuses on Kindergarten readiness skills. The faculty and staff include certified teachers and five highly-qualified assistant teachers.

Part II. Description of How District Will Implement Required District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

1. Pearl Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - A. Establish effective two-way communication between all parents and schools regarding district policies and regulations, local school policies, and an individual child's progress.
 - B. Establish a district parent and family engagement committee.
 - C. Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of children participating in the Title I program with written Parent and Family Engagement policy. The annually updated policy can be found on the website at www.pearl.k12.ms.us and in the current student handbook.
2. Pearl Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1111(d) of the ESEA:
 - A. Host an open house for all parents at each school building early in the school year. Parents meet with classroom teacher, Title I teachers, and itinerant staff to learn about curriculum, annual objectives, and teacher expectations;
 - B. Schedule parent-teacher conferences at least once a year at all schools. Conferences may also be scheduled at the request of a parent or teacher;
 - C. Communicate with parents on school system policies and regulations;
 - D. Maintain and support with appropriate information and training parental volunteer opportunities;
 - E. Develop methods to accommodate and support parent and family engagement for all parents with special needs, including those with limited English proficiency and individuals with disabilities; and,
 - F. Develop mechanisms for local schools to use in order to assess the effectiveness of their parent and family engagement efforts.
3. Pearl Public School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- A. Disseminate information from MDE to principals;
 - B. Provide district training; and,
 - C. Assistance to develop parent engagement in educational advocacy through parent organizations and other organizations, including Strategic Planning Core team and advisory committees.
 - D. Offer parent workshops on a variety of topics specific to each program, such as literacy, child development, arts education, and technology integration.
4. Pearl Public School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family and family engagement strategies in Part A with parent engagement strategies under the following other programs, such as: Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, First Steps, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-operated preschool programs.
 5. Pearl Public School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent engagement activities (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). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.
 - A. Parents will be given surveys at various Back-to-School Nights, Open House, PTSO meetings, Report Card Conference Days, etc. to provide information to schools about various aspects of the educational process;
 - B. Activities to encourage parental volunteer opportunities in schools, both in the classroom and in other areas of the school, including attendance at local school programs and events;
 - C. Parents will serve on the district and school level planning committees; and
 - D. Parents are notified of meetings pertaining to Federal programs.
 - E. Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of children served in the program a "School-Parent Compact" outlining the manner in which parents, students, and the school personnel share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state standards.

The evaluation of the policy process will be conducted at various meetings. Parents will be given copies of the policy and asked to respond with written or verbal feedback. Each spring the policy will be updated as necessary based on feedback and changes in requirements.

1. Pearl Public School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and

- how to work with educators:

Parents are given academic information from the state at the beginning of the school year, the information is discussed during parent meetings and during individual parent conferences. Each school holds a Back-to-School night in the fall. Individual parent conferences are conducted after first term and at parents' request. Parents are given contact information for the schools, counselors, and teachers at the start of school for future questions. Information is also on the district website.

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by doing the following:

Parents are asked for input at the Back-to-School meeting for activities and topics they would like to see offered throughout the school year. Parental input is also solicited at this time on how the 1% from Title I funds will best serve the needs at their child's school.

Provide information and programs for parents on how to establish a home environment to support learning and appropriate behavior. Provide information and programs for parents about how they can assist their own children to learn. Meetings are scheduled at various times to accommodate parents as much as possible.

Individual parent conferences allow teachers to work with the parents with concerns and questions on individual basis.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by continuing to focus on building effective partnerships throughout the community for the students' benefit through the Pearl Public School District Strategic Plan Core Planning Team.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, First Steps, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand by providing at each building an English language learner tutor that will translate parental information in Spanish. Other translations will be provided through translation websites when necessary. Telephone calls are also used to follow up with parents when possible by the tutors.

LEGAL REF.: PL 103-382 (Improving America's Schools Act) PL 114-95 (Every Student Succeeds Act) Section 1010 (Parent and Family Engagement)

CROSS REF.: Policies LA - Parental Involvement

LAB – Regulations for Title I Parent Involvement

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