

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Pitt County Schools will continue to employ previously used strategies for encouraging effective Parent and Family Engagement:

- Parent and Family Engagement Policies will be distributed to all parents, guardians, and family members of Title 1 identified students. This policy outlines the parents', guardians', and family members' right to know if/when schools are identified for School Improvement, the credentials of classroom teachers and paraprofessionals, ways parents, guardians, and family members can become meaningfully involved in their child's education, and other pertinent information about their child's education.
- Parents, guardians, and family members will be informed annually if their child is identified for Title 1 services. The notification will inform parents, guardians, and family members how their children will be served. If the parents, guardians, and family members choose to decline Title I services for their child they will complete a form for documentation.
- All parents, guardians, and family members of Title 1 students will sign a school/parent/student compact that outlines the duties and obligations of each party to ensure that students reach high academic standards. This annual compact will be maintained in the school's official Title 1 documents.
- All parents, guardians, and family members of Title I students will receive a school Title I Brochure that outlines how the school uses their funds as well as ways to build partnerships with the school and support students at home.
- Progress reports and student work samples will be sent home for parents, guardians, and family members to review, sign and return to teachers.
- Title 1 schools will update their Parent and Family Engagement Plans each year.
- ALERT NOW is a phone system used to notify parents, guardians, and family members about school events. This system can also interpret and deliver messages in different languages.
- Schools use a variety of resources to connect home and school: websites, translated documents, newsletters, meetings, and technological programs. Please check with your child's school for additional communication methods such as Dojo or Remind.
- Preschool families receive "Learning at Home Boxes" each month with ideas for activities they can work on with the student. The finished products are often displayed in the schools. High quality children's books from classroom lending libraries are sent home each week with bilingual (Spanish/English) activity sheets for the families. Preschool staff plan and provide monthly Family/Child Activities at each school, where parents, guardians, family members and preschoolers work side by side on a learning activities

together. All preschool families receive at least one home visit each year, usually before the child begins school to assist with transitioning into the classroom. In addition, each preschool child will select a high quality paperwork book monthly to take home and add to their book collection.

- All preschool forms and documents are available in Spanish and English. The preschool program has several bilingual staff members to assist Hispanic families with conferences, family activities, and communication between home and school.
- Parents, guardians, and family members will have an opportunity to attend parent-teacher conferences at least twice per school year to monitor student process.

Title 1 schools will use several additional techniques for encouraging effective Parent and Family Engagement. Included are:

- Schools receiving Title 1 funds inform parents, guardians, and family members of the Title 1 programs and services offered at that school at the beginning of the year meeting. Parents, guardians, and family members also have the opportunity to meet the Title 1 teachers and view samples of student work. All Title 1 schools offer 4 or more workshops during the year.
- The normal parental activities, such as PTA/PTO, carnivals, meetings, holiday events, will continue to be held at each school on a regular basis.
- The LEA employs a Bilingual support person who is available to provide services for Hispanic families and employs interpreters for other languages on an as-needed basis. Schools are encouraged to communicate with parents, guardians, and family members in a language in which they understand as much as possible.
- The LEA purchases a software program called Systran which is available to all Title I schools and can translate all documents into more than 50 additional languages.
- The LEA also provides schools with a service called Language Line which can be used to communicate with families in more than 200 different languages.

Pitt County Schools Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Pitt County Title 1 Program recognizes the value and necessity of a parent's, guardians, and family member's involvement with their child's education.

I. To that end, parents, guardians, and family members must receive information related to:

- The School Improvement Plan identifies the efforts by the school to improve student performance and to reach the educational goals of the Board of Education.
- Teacher's and Paraprofessional's credentials.

A. Information concerning the School Improvement Plan will include an explanation of the following:

- What "identification" means and how the school compares to others
- The reasons for the identification
- What the school is doing to address the problem of low achievement
- What the PSU and SEA are doing to help the school
- How the parents can become involved in addressing the school's academic problems
- What options the parents, guardians, and family members have regarding their right to seek a transfer of their child or to seek supplemental services

B. Information concerning the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers will include an explanation of the following:

- Whether the teacher has met state qualifying and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher is teaching
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, including the field of discipline of the certification or degree
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications

II. To that end, parents, guardians, and family members must be welcomed and encouraged to be involved in their child's education. They must learn techniques to permit them to be effective supporters at home and at school.

A. Each school will:

- Have an annual meeting to explain the Title 1 Program to parents, guardians, and family members and inform them of their right to be involved in the program
- Offer a flexible number of meetings, and use Title 1 funds to pay related expenses, such as child care, transportation, or home visits

- Provide opportunities to involve parents, guardians, and family members in planning, review and improvement of the Title 1 programs and respond promptly to parent suggestions
- Provide information about the Title 1 program including the curricula, student assessments and proficiency levels students are expected to meet

B. Each PSU and school will:

- Provide information about how parents, guardians, and family members can monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve their academic skills
- Provide materials and training, such as literacy training and technology training, to help parents work with their child to improve achievement
- Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff of the value and utility of the contributions of parents, guardians, family members, and advise them how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with them as equal partners, in order to implement and coordinate parent, guardian, and family member programs and build ties between them and the school
- Coordinate and integrate Parent and Family Engagement programs with preschool programs, and conduct other activities such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents, guardians, and family members in more fully participating in the education of their child
- Ensure that information related to school and parent, guardian, and family member programs and activities is sent to the parents, guardians, and family members of participating children in a format and language that they can understand
- Provide other reasonable support for Parent and Family Engagement activities as parents, guardians, and family members may request