

District Title I Parent and Family Engagement

Pursuant to federal law, the district and the parents of students participating in Title I district programs have jointly developed the following parent and family engagement policy to establish the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement. The policy shall be implemented by the superintendent or designee, according to the timeline set forth in the policy and incorporated into the district's Title I plan.

Involvement with Title I planning

The district shall hold an annual meeting for parents and families of students in Title I programs, as well as school Title I staff, principals of schools receiving Title I funds and other interested persons to discuss the Title I program plan, review implementation of the Title I plan, discuss how Title I funds allotted for parent and family engagement activities shall be used, and invite suggestions for improvement.

District support for parent and family engagement

The district shall provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

This coordination, assistance, and support shall include:

- Designation of a part-time Title I parent and family engagement coordinator.
- Sharing of best practices from research and other schools.
- Allocation of financial resources for parent and family engagement activities.
- Coordination of parent and family engagement efforts across district programs.
- Providing professional development regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.
- Engaging in activities and strategies to promote student achievement and learning at home, such as positive phone calls home and weekly data sharing folders.
- Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
- Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.

Coordination of parent and family engagement activities with other district programs

The district shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs (including public preschools), and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their students.

This coordination shall include:

- Dissemination of written materials to parents regarding these programs.
- Monthly meetings with Title I family liaisons and district personnel involved in these programs to coordinate parent involvement activities.

- Parent seminars that are jointly designed and facilitated across programs.

Student learning

The district shall coordinate and integrate Title I parent and family engagement strategies with those of other educational programs in the district. The purpose of this coordination shall be to improve the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying challenges to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law.

School-based parent and family engagement activities

Parents will be involved in activities in Title I schools through attention to each of these areas:

Communication

- School and district brochures and notices will be written in a parent-friendly language.
- Communication will be disseminated in as many ways as possible: brochures, letters, meetings, conferences, phone calls, newsletters, progress reports, email, websites, etc.
- Parent liaisons at each school will contact parents on a regular basis. Parent liaisons communicate with parents in a language the parent can understand, attend conferences, and extend the communication between teachers and parents.
- Parent liaisons also connect parents to the resources provided through the homeless program.
- All learning plans will be translated into a language the parent can understand, with copies available to parents.
- All district standards and essential learning statements are posted on the district's website.

Parenting

- Title I family liaisons will provide parenting and advocacy resources through "cafecitos," parent nights, and district workshops.
- Title I schools coordinate the advertisement and promotion of these learning opportunities.
- This outreach effort engages parents in their student's education.

Student learning

- All Title I schools actively encourage home reading. Parent liaisons at each school support home reading and communicate regularly with parents through "cafecitos" and parent nights.
- Title I schools hold annual meetings to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I, the requirements of Title I, and the rights of parents to be involved.
- Parents will be informed about the goals and purpose of Title I, the curriculum used in the program, the academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

Volunteering

- Title I family liaisons and the Parent Leadership Teams will work to ensure that volunteers feel welcome and that their efforts support student learning.
- Parent libraries make pertinent information/books accessible to parents.
- Schools recruit and train volunteers for practice reading programs and support parent volunteers with at-home reading strategies.

School decision-making and advocacy

- All schools have accountability committees comprised of parents, community members, and school staff who focus on school decisions to increase student achievement.
- All schools have parent organizations that foster parent participation in the school.
- Parents are involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program at the school.
- Schools will regularly seek input of parents at the school regarding the improvement of parent involvement activities and practices.

Collaborating with the community

- There are many community relationships with the district that provide human, financial, material, and social resources.
- The Title I parent involvement coordinator works extensively with district offices and community groups to develop advocacy classes and a network of support for Title I families.

Method of communicating with parents

All information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities should be sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- Written communications are sent in a language the parents can understand, to the extent practicable, and disseminated in as many ways as possible: mail, newsletters, student folders, email, websites, etc.
- School's staff engage with parents through informal communication such as telephone, home visits, personal contact.
- Parents are invited to regularly scheduled parent-teacher conferences with translations provided when necessary.

Annual evaluation

The district shall conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy. Effectiveness shall be measured in part by improvements in student academic achievement and in school performance.

The evaluation shall address the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The evaluation shall specifically address challenges to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law.

The evaluation will include:

- Feedback from parents who are presently not engaged with the school.
- Written surveys that will provide an inventory of current practices.
- Suggestions from a variety of sources as to how to improve and increase parent involvement.

The district shall use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise this policy, if necessary.

Development of school-level Title I parent engagement policy

Each school receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with, agree on, and distribute to parents and family members of students participating in the Title I program (hereafter referred to as “parents”) a written School-Level Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy establishing the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement in accordance with the requirements of federal law.

The policy shall contain a school-parent compact or agreement that outlines how parents, teachers, and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students.

Adopted: January 14, 2004

Revised: October 28, 2015

Revised: October 10, 2018

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. §6301 *et seq.* (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act)
Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (a) (parent role in the development of district Title I plan)
Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (e) (information for parents concerning teacher qualifications, assessments and language instruction)
Title I, Part A, Section 1114 (b)(2) (eligible school that desires to operate a schoolwide program must develop a comprehensive plan with involvement of parents and other community members)
Title I, Part A, Section 1115 (b)(2)(E) (Targeted Assistance Program must include parent involvement strategies)
Title I, Part A, Section 1116 (a) (parent and family engagement policy)
Title I, Part C, Section 1304 (c)(3) (parent involvement in projects and programs for the education of migratory children)
C.R.S. 22-11-101 *et seq.* (Education Accountability Act of 2009)

CROSS REFS.: AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishments
IHBIB, Primary/Preprimary Education
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems
KD, Public Information and Communications