

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN TITLE I PROGRAMS

Note: The Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 continues the federal requirements that districts receiving Title I funds have a policy on parent and family engagement. General requirements continuing from previous years include the mandate that districts conduct, with parental input, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. Additionally, each of the district's schools with a Title I program must have its own parent and family engagement policy created with input from parents and families of students attending that school. Finally, parents must be notified of the parent and family engagement policy.

A strong partnership between families, schools, and the community will improve student outcomes. Each school shall support and encourage parent and family engagement opportunities, as identified in a school parent and family engagement policy. The policy must be developed in cooperation with parents and should include the following:

1. A plan for effective two-way communication between parents and the school regarding the school's policies and rules, and an individual child's progress;
 2. A commitment from the school that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities will be sent to parents in a timely manner.
 3. A description of the school's responsibilities to provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment;
 4. A description of the parents' responsibilities for supporting their children's learning such as monitoring attendance and homework completion; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
 5. A description of how the school will promote to teachers and other personnel the value and utility of the contributions and involvement by parents and families;
 6. The availability of assistance to parents in understanding the State's academic achievement and assessment standards;
 7. The availability of materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
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8. The importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum –
 - a. Frequent reports to the parents on their children’s progress;
 - b. Parent-teacher conferences to discuss the child’s progress and placement and to describe the methods used to complement the student’s instruction;
 - c. Reasonable access to teachers and other educators, including the opportunity to observe program activities;
 - d. An annual meeting, at a time convenient for parent attendance, to explain what students will learn, the assessments used to measure student progress, the state’s academic standards, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet for their grade level;
 - e. An annual meeting, at a time convenient for parent attendance, where all parents shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to discuss and review the content and effectiveness of the school parent and family engagement policy and activities.
9. The timely notice to parents of information about parent and family engagement programs;
10. Insofar as possible, the coordination and integration of parental involvement with community groups;

In facilitating effective parent and family engagement, the Principal/Site Administrator may:

1. Provide regular meetings, at parent request, where parents may formulate suggestions and participate in decision-making about the education of their children;
 2. Ensure, insofar as possible, that opportunities for full participation are given to parents who lack literacy skills or whose native language is not English;
 3. Involve parents in the development and training of teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
 4. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
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5. Establish a parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement activities and programs;

Insofar as practical, parent and family engagement materials and information shall be provided in a language and format that parents understand.