

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

Title I Parent & Family Engagement (*formerly Title I Parental Involvement*)

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Greenville Public School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The Greenville Public School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members 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 plans meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) 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 families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families 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, as requested.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

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

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

(B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school

(C) families 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; and

(D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parent Resource Center in the district.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Greenville Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Involve the Title I District-Wide Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) in discussions of the School District's parent and family engagement policy and all improvement plans (school-wide, comprehensive support & improvement, and targeted support & improvement) to be a part of the policy /plan development by reviewing the documents and offering feedback as a committee.
- Invite all district parents to participate in discussions of the School District's Parent & Family Engagement Policy.
- Host parent feedback meetings at least annually for all parents to participate in the analysis of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to discuss the policy's effectiveness in meeting the needs of the students and requirements of the Title I Program.
- Provide parents access to the information in the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Improvement Plans through the district website and engage in open communication about the policy/plan during parent meetings, such as the following:
 - Annual Title I Public Meeting
 - Parent Advisory Council
 - Open House
 - Parent Workshops
 - Parent Conferences
 - Federal Program Advisory Committee

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Greenville Public School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. The district will provide support and technical assistance to all Title I schools by doing the following:

- In collaboration with the Office of State and Federal Programs, Title I Parent Advisory Committee, and other parent groups, provide workshops to schools on parent engagement.
- Provide trainings for parents that provide supports to assist in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement.
- Provide workshops to parents on varied topics, as requested.
- Review school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plans, School/Parent Compacts, and all Title I Parent and Family Engagement requirements to ensure compliance, including documentation from parent meetings showing it was developed jointly with parent input.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Greenville Public School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children,

including engaging with school personnel, teachers, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The parent & family engagement specialist or other superintendent designee will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Depending upon available resources, the Parent and Family Engagement Specialist or other superintendent designee will employ the following methods to evaluate the status of the goal and sub-goal attainment: surveys (including the district-wide survey of administrators, teachers, parents, and students), parent focus groups, record analysis, as well as observation of meeting and training workshops. The evaluation will be conducted by the following strategies:

- Parent Meetings (Parent Advisory Council, Annual Title I Meeting)
- Surveys (Take-home, electronic)
- Offer a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education
- Publicize (website, call outs, flyers, social media, Remind 101, etc.) all activities in multiple ways to ensure families are informed
- Provide assistance to schools throughout year as needed

The roles the parents and family members will play in the annual evaluation would be to identify barriers to greater participation in parent activities. This process will also help to identify the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children. This process will include engaging with school personnel and teachers and providing strategies to support successful school and family interactions. Evaluations will be conducted by schools sites and the Parent & Family Engagement Specialist or superintendent designee.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Greenville Public School District will involve the parents and family members 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 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

The Greenville Public School District will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives each funding year to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the Greenville Public School District will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level parent & family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parent and family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. Funds reserved by the district will be used to:

- Support schools in providing training for school and district personnel, as well as parents and family members, regarding parent and family engagement strategies.
- Disseminate information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement (especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members).
- Support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
- Provide an avenue for parents to ask for input and suggestions at the District-Wide Title I Meeting and at school-level parent meetings about how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. The budget will be shared at the meeting as well.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Greenville Public School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent

feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Collaborating with external early education programs like Head Start, community businesses, and other community partners to develop an effective program that prepares young learners for grade school and parents for school transition during a meeting held by the district.
- Recruiting parents of Pre-K students to participate in district-based committees, events and activities.
- Providing translation services for early childhood programs to families whose first language is not English.
- Fostering a relationship between the Greenville Public School District Early College in partnership with local universities.
- Facilitating district-level parent academy meetings & workshops.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

The Greenville Public School District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards;
- The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators.

To support families in helping their student's academic success, the Greenville Public School District will do the following:

- Host parent meeting/workshops/classes at all Title I schools.
- Send information home via written correspondence, take-home folders, etc.
- Post information on websites and social media.
- Use multiple sources to keep parents informed.
- Host parent/family workshops that promote literacy training.
- Host parent meetings for parents to provide feedback regarding the best practices for communication.
- Facilitate a process in which take-home learning material can be checked out from the district's Parent Center to help children in core subject areas.
- Disseminate a parent survey annually requesting input about effective school/home communication.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Greenville Public School District will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of families. This will include processes on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners. In addition, this process will involve implementation and coordination of parent programs which will have the effect of building ties between families and schools by:

- Involving families in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Providing necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation

and childcare costs, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

- Training families to enhance the involvement of other families.
- Maximizing family engagement and participation in their children's education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with families who are unable to attend those conferences at school.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement.
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent & family engagement activities.
- Establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent & family engagement activities.
- Conducting community-based Parent Academies at local churches.
- To the extent practicable, providing communications in clear and simple language.
- Providing glossaries to explain acronyms or jargon.
- To the extent practicable, providing materials for people with vision disabilities, e.g., large print materials, upon request.
- Providing oral explanations of written documents when requested.
- Providing language access services to families whose first language is other than English through on-site or telephonic interpretation services, as appropriate.
- Widely distributing notifications about district-wide opportunities for parents and children to experience different cultural events, activities, and programs.
- Posting above mentioned communications on the district's website.
- Providing communications using the parent link.
- Providing written communications in a language parents can understand.

Each item will be implemented by attending meetings, webinars, and attending trainings and conferences to stay current with Title I requirements. These items will help ensure parents are provided with the necessary tools to aid in learning at home. The staff will be provided with adequate professional development on effective parent & family engagement on a yearly basis.

ADOPTION

This district parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by documentation from the Parent Advisory Council Committee Meeting and the Federal Program Advisory Committee Meeting.

LEGAL REF.: P. L. 103-382 (Improving America's Schools Act)

Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015

CROSS REF.: Policies LA - Parental Involvement, LAA-R - Title I Parent Involvement Regulations

Last Review Date: _____

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