

**Richland Springs ISD**  
**Parent and Family Engagement Policy**  
**ESSA Section 1116**

1. Richland Springs ISD will reach out to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs consistent with the requirements of ESSA Section 1116. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. Section 1116 (a)(1)

*Involve parents in the joint development of the plan.*

*How Achieved: Notices of meetings, meeting agendas, and minutes reflect parent participation. An interpreter is provided if requested by the parent.*

2. Richland Springs ISD receives Title I, Part A funds. Our goal is to plan and implement effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Therefore, Richland Springs ISD will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy.

Section 1116 (a)(2)

- The policy shall be incorporated into the local educational agency's plan developed under section 1112 (District Improvement Plan, DIP),
- The policy will establish the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement

*The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is typically reviewed at two annual Title 1 meetings in the fall. The Title 1 meetings are advertised in the local newspaper, and letters are also mailed home to parents prior to the meeting. The first Title 1 Parent/Family meeting is held usually in August around 6:00 p.m. in the evening at the school cafeteria just prior to the first home football game. Persons attending the first meeting are given free passes to the game. Revisions to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is an agenda item. The second Title I meeting is held in September on the morning of the day scheduled for Open House, and a third Title 1 meeting is usually held in the evening of the day scheduled for Open House. Parents are given a choice of meeting with the Principal (by appointment) during the day, or attending the meeting at Open House during the evening. Again, the jointly developed Parent and Family Engagement Policy is reviewed.*

3. Richland Springs ISD will: involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan (DIP) under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d). Section 1116 (a)(2)(A)

*Parents are included in the development of the District/Campus Improvement Plan. Notices of meetings, meeting agendas, and minutes reflect parent participation. An interpreter is provided if requested by the parent.*

4. Richland Springs ISD will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency, in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement 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. Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)

*Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.*

*How Achieved: School personnel are primarily responsible for these areas. Coordination, assistance, and support is achieved by providing a site and scheduling some Title I meetings to be as convenient as possible for parents to attend by scheduling some Title I meeting at a time when parents are coming to school for other activities such as Open house.*

5. Richland Springs ISD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children; Section 1116 (a)(2)(C) and Section 1116 (e)(4)

*Since the Richland Spring ISD is located in a rural, sparsely populated area, many programs common to large districts are not part of the school system, so specific coordination of such strategies is N/A. However, parents with pre-school children do attend school functions, and consequently, children are familiar with school before enrolling in pre-K or kindergarten. (Registration for pre-K and/ or K is scheduled each May as a child's first formal experience in the public school setting.)*

6. Richland Springs ISD will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying— Section 1116 (a)(2)(D)
  - barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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 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;

*How Achieved: Parents and school personnel formulate a survey to be mailed with reports cards at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks to evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and to solicit ideas for improvements and/or additional activities for consideration. Students are also surveyed at the end of the 5<sup>th</sup> six weeks to solicit ideas for educational improvements and/or additional activities for consideration.*

7. Richland Springs ISD will use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies; and Section 1116 (a)(2)(E)

*Education succeeds best when there is a strong partnership and communication between home and schools. As key players in the education of their children, parents are involved in developing a policy which will achieve maximum effectiveness in the ties between home and school so that children will benefit from their time at school and the services provided by the Title I, Part A program. The Parent/Family Engagement Policy is one that is subject to change and revision in order to remain effective in meeting the needs of children who live in a constantly changing society. Parent/student surveys are evaluated to see if changes/modifications need to be made to achieve maximum effectiveness. Parents and school personnel work together to achieve such a policy.*

8. Richland Springs ISD will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy and provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request. Section 1116 (a)(2)(F) and Section 1116 (e)(14)

*An advisory committee will be formed consisting of parents, community members, teachers and staff, and administrators to develop and revise the Richland Springs ISD Parent/Family Engagement Policy. The need for volunteers to serve on this committee will be publicized and then volunteers will be selected. The parent volunteers will represent the diversity of the student population, and one or more parents on the advisory committee will have children participating in the Title 1 program. The advisory committee will convene at a time and place convenient to all its members.*

9. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Richland Springs ISD shall: Section 1116 (e)

*The school district listens to parents' concerns and suggestions and attempts to respond to these needs. Communication between the home and the school is vital for strong involvement, and the district provides various avenues for communication. Parents are encouraged to phone or personally contact their child's teacher or administrator; weekly activity calendars keep parents abreast of classroom assignments and the school's GRADEBOOK online parent portal provides current class grading information for parent's to view online; and 3-week progress reports are sent home prior to regular report cards if a student is having academic problems; and parents are contacted regarding any other areas where a one-on-one discussion is deemed necessary by school personnel.*

- i) providing assistance to parents of children served by the local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of the parent and family engagement program, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; Section 1116 (e)(1)

*Richland Springs ISD will provide to all parents the grade level goals for its students. Richland Springs ISD will also publish the STAAR testing schedule and assessment goals. Richland Springs ISD will encourage parents to:*

- (1) Read and discuss the student handbook prior to signing and returning to school;*
- (2) Emphasize the importance of education and encourage participation in school activities;*
- (3) Stay informed about your child's activities by attending parent conferences and other parent meetings;*
- (4) Learn about the curriculum, student support services, and activities offered by the district;*
- (5) Become familiar with the academic program and review teaching materials, textbooks, and other instructional aids;*
- (6) Examine tests that your child has taken;*
- (7) Monitor your child's progress and contact teachers, the counselor, or the principal as needed;*
- (8) Call the office to schedule appointments;*
- (9) Review your child's records when needed;*

- ii) providing materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; Section 1116 (e)(2)

*Parents are encouraged to meet with their child's teachers by scheduling conferences with teachers, meeting teachers at Open House and other events at school. Parents may use technology to log in to the parent Gradebook portal to check their child's classroom grades.*

- iii) educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school; Section 1116 (e)(3)

*Activities such as staff meetings and Professional Development focusing on parent and family engagement, professional development opportunities on-site or at other training venues, and Parent and Family Engagement Statewide Initiative resources available on the website.*

- iv) ensuring that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; Section 1116 (e)(5)

*Some of the documents that will be provided in Spanish language include the Parent Involvement Policy, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School –Parent-Child Compact, the Home Language Survey, Directions and Application for Free and Reduced-Price School Meals, and parent newsletters sent home with six-week report cards. Translators are available at Title 1 Meetings, ARD Meetings, and ESL meetings and parent conferences as needed.*