

SOUTH WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

SECTION: COMMUNITY

TITLE: TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT

ADOPTED: January 23, 2013

REVISED: August 22, 2018

<p>918. TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT</p>	
<p>1. Purpose</p>	<p>The Board recognizes that parent and family engagement contributes to the achievement of academic standards by students participating in Title I programs. The Board views the education of students as a cooperative effort among the school, parents/guardians and community.</p>
<p>2. Definition</p>	<p>Parent and Family (Family Member) – These terms are used interchangeably and shall include caregivers, a legal guardian or other person standing in loco parentis such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare, or a legally appointed Education Decision Maker of a child participating in a Title I program.</p>
<p>3. Authority 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318</p>	<p>In compliance with federal law, the district and parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs shall jointly develop and agree upon a written parent and family policy. When developing and implementing this policy, the district shall ensure the policy describes how the district will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Involve parents/guardians in the joint development of the district's overall Title I plan and the process of school review and improvement. 2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. 3. Develop activities that promote the schools' and parents'/guardians' capacity for strong parental involvement. 4. Coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies with appropriate programs, as provided by law. 5. Involve parents/guardians in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of schools served under Title I.

<p>20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318</p> <p>4. Delegation of Responsibility</p> <p>Pol. 138</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Identify barriers to participation by parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority. 7. Use findings of annual evaluations to design strategies for more effective parent and family involvement. 8. Involve parents/guardians in the activities of schools served under Title I. <p>The Board shall adopt and publish the parent and family engagement policy on the district website, which shall be incorporated into the district's Title I plan and shall be evaluated annually, with parental involvement.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy, plan and programs comply with the requirements of federal law.</p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the district and its schools with Title I programs provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members by providing resources, information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format, or, upon request, in another format. Such efforts may include, but are not limited to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Providing communications in clear and simple language. 2. Positing information for parents and family members on the district's website. 3. Including a telephone number for parents and family members to call with questions. 4. Partnering with community agencies to assist in sharing information. 5. Provide language access services to families with limited English proficiency through on-site or telephonic translation and interpretation services, as appropriate. <p>The building principal and/or Title I staff shall provide to parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Explanation of the reasons supporting their child's selection for the program. 2. Set of objectives to be addressed. 3. Description of the services to be provided. 4. A copy of this policy and School-Parent and Family Compact.
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20 U.S.C. 6318	Parents and family members shall actively carry out their responsibilities in accordance with this policy and the School-Parent and Family Compact. At a minimum, parents and family members shall be expected to:
Pol. 916	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Volunteer in their child’s classroom. 2. Support their child’s learning. 3. Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of extracurricular time.
20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318	The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that information and reports provided to parents/guardians are in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand.
5. Guidelines 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318	An annual meeting of parents/guardians of participating Title I students shall be held to explain the goals and purposes of the Title I program. Parents/Guardians shall be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation and evaluation of the program. Parents/Guardians shall be encouraged to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs.
20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318	In addition to the required annual meeting, additional parent/guardian meetings shall be held at various times of the day and evening. At these meetings, parents/guardians shall be provided: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Timely information about programs provided under Title I. 2. Description and explanation of the curriculum in use, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. 3. Opportunities to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children. 4. Opportunities to submit parent/guardian comments about the program to the district level. <p>If sufficient and warranted, Title I funding may be used at the district’s sole discretion to facilitate parent/guardian attendance at meetings through payment of transportation, child care costs, or home visits.</p> <p>Opportunities shall be provided for parents/guardians to meet with the classroom and Title I teachers to discuss their child's progress.</p>

Pol. 102	<p>Parents/Guardians may be given guidance as to how they can assist at home in the education of their child.</p> <p><u>School-Parent & Family Compact</u></p> <p>Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents/guardians of students served in the program a School-Parent and Family Compact outlining the manner in which parents/guardians, school staff and students share responsibility for improved student achievement in meeting academic standards. The compact shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, enabling students in the Title I program to meet the district's academic standards. 2. Indicate the ways in which parents/guardians will be responsible for supporting their children's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in the classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child's education and positive use of extracurricular time. 3. Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum, parent-teacher conferences, frequent reports to parents/guardians, and reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in the classroom, and observation of classroom activities.
20 U.S.C. 6318	<p><u>Title I Funds</u></p> <p>Unless exempt by law, the district shall reserve at least one percent (1%) of its Title I funds to assist schools in conducting parent and family engagement activities. Parents and family members shall be involved in the decisions regarding how the Title I reserved funds are used for parent and family engagement activities.</p>
20 U.S.C. 6318	<p>Not less than ninety percent (90%) of the reserved funds shall be distributed to district schools with a Title I program, with priority given to high need schools. The district shall use Title I reserved funds to conduct activities and strategies consistent with this policy, including:</p>
Pol. 333	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for the district and school personnel 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.

2. Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
3. 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.
4. Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the district determines are appropriate and consistent with this policy.

Documentation of Parent and Family Engagement Practices

Documentation to track the implementation of this policy is an essential part of compliance and may include, but not be limited to, sign-in sheets at workshops, meetings and conferences; schedules, training and informational materials; communications and brochures; and meeting notes.

References:

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 403.1

No Child Left Behind Act – 20 U.S.C. Sec. 6318

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