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Title I Parent and Family Engagement - District Level Policy (Adopted by School)

Consistent with the parent and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and its reauthorization in the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Board of Education will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education. The Board also will ensure that all of its schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parent and family engagement procedures, as further required by federal law.

For purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. At a minimum, parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures at both the district and individual school level must ensure that parents and family members:

- Play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school; and
- 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.

The federal definition of the term "parents" refers to a natural parent, legal guardian, or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

District and school level Title I parent and family engagement programs, activities, and procedures will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members including those who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children.

As further required by federal law, parents and family members of students eligible for Title I services will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the district's Title I plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to the State Education Department.

Parents and family members also will participate in the process for developing either a comprehensive or targeted "support and improvement plan" when the school their child attends is identified by the State as needing this plan.

Parent and family member participation in development of district wide Title I plan

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate district staff, will undertake the following actions to ensure parent and family member involvement in the development of the district wide Title I plan:

- Hold meetings at flexible times
- Hold meetings in a variety/accessible locations
- Survey parents in person, by phone, or via e-mail

Development of school level parent and family engagement approaches

The superintendent of schools will ensure that all district schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided coordination, technical assistance, and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement programs and activities that improve student achievement and school performance. As appropriate to meet individual local needs, the superintendent will:

- Hold meetings at flexible times
- Hold meetings in a variety/accessible locations
- Survey parents in person, by phone, or via e-mail

Building capacity for parent and family engagement

To build parent capacity for strong parent and family engagement to improve their child's academic achievement, the district and its Title I, Part A schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic content's challenging student achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I requirements, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their child. To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

- Hold workshops and conferences
- Distribute training materials

2. Provide materials and training to help parents work to improve their child's academic achievement such as literacy training and technology usage(including education about the harms of copyright piracy). To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will:

- Provide literacy programs and events that bond families around reading and using the library
- Train parents how to promote literacy and numeracy with their children

3. Educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, school leaders, and other staff, in understanding the value and utility of a parent's contributions and on 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 schools.

To achieve this objective, the district and its Title I schools will involve parents in developing this training in order to improve its effectiveness.

4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Coordination of parent and family engagement strategies to improve achievement

The district will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements with strategies adopted in connection with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs. It will do this by implementation:

- The superintendent or designee will be responsible for coordinating programs and strategies.
- Ensure 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 practical, in a language parents can understand.

Review of district wide parent and family engagement policy

The Board, along with its superintendent of schools and other appropriate staff, will 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 Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent and family engagement policies necessary for more effective involvement. To facilitate this review, the district will conduct the following activities:

- Create a Needs Assessment (survey) to be distributed to parents requesting feedback and offer suggestions for improvement.