

District Title I Parent and Family Engagement

Pursuant to federal law, the district and the parents of students participating in Title I district programs have jointly developed the following parent and family engagement policy to establish the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement. The policy shall be implemented by the superintendent or designee according to the timeline set forth in the policy and incorporated into the district's Title I plan.

Involvement with Title I planning

The district shall hold an annual meeting for parents and families of students in Title I programs, as well as school Title I staff, principals of schools receiving Title I funds and other interested persons to discuss the Title I program plan, review implementation of the Title I plan, discuss how Title I funds allotted for parent and family engagement activities shall be used, and invite suggestions for improvement.

District support for parent and family engagement

The district shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

This coordination, assistance and support shall include:

- Providing high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating children to meet the State's student academic achievement standards as follows:
- District Parent Advisory Council / District Accountability Committee to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in programs supported by Title I funds
- Hold parent- teacher conferences in all schools twice during the school year. Conferences should be scheduled in the school calendar if at all possible.
- Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the School District shall provide reports home at least quarterly and parents will have access to grades and attendance through the use of technology
- Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Staff will be available to the parents through proper scheduling.
- Provide parents with the opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities through proper scheduling and administration approval to minimize the possible negative impact on the educational environment.

The district, with the assistance of parents, shall develop and implement a district professional development plan to enhance the skills of teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in:

- the value and utility of contributions of parents
- how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- implementing and coordinating parent programs
- building ties between parents and the school

Coordination of parent and family engagement activities with other district programs

The district shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and district preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their students.

Facilitate and implement the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

- Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy at least annually.
- Provide notice to parents of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- Make the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy available to the community.

Student learning

The district shall coordinate and integrate Title I parental involvement strategies with those of other educational programs in the district. The purpose of this coordination shall be to improve the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who:

- are economically disadvantaged
- have disabilities
- have limited English proficiency
- have limited literacy
- are of any racial or ethnic minority background

- are parents of migratory children

The district shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor students' academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of students. The district shall develop written materials and training for staff to help parents work with students to improve student achievement. The district will:

- Convene annual meetings to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, the requirements of Title I and the right of parents to be involved.
- Inform parents of all meetings and encourage and invite parents to attend. Meetings shall be offered at various convenient dates and times to facilitate attendance by parents.

School-based parent involvement activities

To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent engagement programs and activities with other relevant federal, state and local laws and programs, (including public preschools), and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their student.

There are many resources you can access to help provide researched-based ideas on parent involvement, including a toolkit developed by CDE in collaboration with many Colorado education organizations. One of the best resources referenced in the toolkit is the parent involvement framework developed by Joyce Epstein and colleagues in 1997 and subsequently translated into standards by the National Parent Teacher Association. The standards are as follows:

- Communicating – communication between home and school is regular, two-way and meaningful
- Parenting – parenting skills are promoted and supported
- Student learning – parents play an integral role in assisting student learning
- Volunteering – parents are welcome in the school, and their support and assistance are sought
- School decision making and advocacy – parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families
- Collaborating with the community – community resources are used to strengthen schools, families and student learning

Method of communicating with parents

All information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities shall be sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Annual evaluation

The district shall conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy. Effectiveness shall be measured in part by improvements in student academic achievement and in school performance.

The evaluation shall address 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. The evaluation shall specifically address challenges to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who:

- are economically disadvantaged
- have disabilities
- have limited English proficiency
- have limited literacy
- are of any racial or ethnic minority background
- are parents of migratory children

The district shall use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary, this policy.

The district shall provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request.

Development of school-level Title I parent engagement policy

Each school receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with, agree on, and distribute to parents and family members of students participating in the Title I program (hereafter referred to as “parents”) a written School-Level Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy establishing the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement in accordance with the requirements of federal law.

The policy shall contain a school-parent compact or agreement that outlines how parents, school staff and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students.

Adoption date: August 8, 2023

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq. (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act)
Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (a) (parent role in the development of district Title I plan)
Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (e) (information for parents concerning teacher qualifications, assessments and language instruction)
Title I, Part A, Section 1114 (b)(2) (eligible school that desires to operate a schoolwide program must develop a comprehensive plan with involvement of parent involvement strategies)
Title I, Part A, Section 1115 (b)(2)(E) (Targeted Assistance Program must include parent involvement strategies)
Title I, Part A, Section 1116 (a) (parent and family engagement policy)
Title I, Part C, Section 1304 (c)(3) (parent involvement in projects and programs for the education of migratory children)
C.R.S. 22-11-101 et seq. (Education Accountability Act of 2009)

CROSS REFS.: ADA, School District Goals and Objectives
AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishments
AEA, Standards Based Education
IA, Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives
IHBIB, Primary/Preprimary Education
IKA, Grading/Assessment Systems
KD, Public Information and Communications