

505.8 PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Parent and family engagement is an important component in a student's success in school. The board encourages parents and families to become involved in their child's education to ensure the child's academic success. In order to facilitate parent and family involvement, it is the goal of the district to conduct outreach and implement programs, activities and procedures to further involve parents and families with the academic success of their students. The board will:

1. Parents are given assistance in understanding the Title I requirements, standards, and assessments through open house, parent-teacher conferences, district newsletter, School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC), and when new families enroll. The jointly developed policy is distributed to parents of participating children in English or other language as needed.
2. An annual meeting is held for all parents of participating children to discuss the Title I program during the fall open house. Parents will be notified by the JMC online notification system, the school calendar, and district newsletter.
3. Parents are given assistance in understanding the requirements of the Title I program and law. They are informed about the curriculum, instructional objectives, assessments, and methods used in the program.
4. Parent recommendations are encouraged and responded to in a timely manner. Written responses are given considering these recommendations.
5. Parents will be involved with the planning, review, and improvement of the elementary programs. The School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) meets to discuss the programs. If the elementary program is not satisfactory to the parents, they may submit comments to the SIAC committee, superintendent or elementary principal. A community survey and a Title I parent survey are sent out annually.
6. The parent/school compact outlines how parents, students, and all staff share responsibility for academic achievement. The compact also describes the partnership to help children achieve standards. It is distributed and signed with the permission slip at the beginning of the year and after the fall assessments.

The district shall involve parents in determining how to allocate reserved Title I funds in accordance with applicable laws.

The board will review this policy annually. The superintendent is responsible for notifying parents and families of this policy annually or within a reasonable time after it has been amended during the school year. The superintendent may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement this policy.

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §6318

Cross References: 903.2 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

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505.8R1 PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REGULATION

To further the interests of student achievement, the superintendent will create necessary rules to engage parents and family members within the district in the following ways on a building-level basis:

1. Policy Involvement: The district will host an annual meeting and invite all parents to attend; and inform parents of their rights and the district's requirements under Title I. This meeting will also invite parents to become involved in the planning, review and improvement of a building policy and in developing the district plan. The district will inform parents of:
 - programs under this policy,
 - curriculum and assessment used for students,
 - the opportunity to meet with administration to participate in decisions related to their children's education,
 - a description and explanation of curriculum used in the school forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
 - achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
2. Accessibility: Provide opportunities for informed participation of parents and family members in understandable formats and languages. This includes participation by parents and family members who may have disabilities, limited English proficiency, and migratory children. Offer a flexible number of meetings during the day, evening and weekends to facilitate parent involvement. The superintendent has discretion to allow schools to provide childcare for families of students during these meetings through Title I funds.
3. High Student Academic Achievement: Each school in the district will jointly develop with parents and family members a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, staff and students share responsibility for improving student academic achievement; and how a partnership will be built to achieve this. The compact will describe the responsibility of the school to provide high quality curriculum and instruction, and the parents' responsibility to support their children's learning. This will also address the importance of communication between schools and parents through parent teacher conferences, regular reports to parents on their children's progress, and ensuring regular meaningful communication between family and school staff.
4. Building Capacity for Involvement: Each school within the district will include in their plan ways to achieve the following:
 - Assist parents and families to understand topics including academic standards and assessments and how to monitor student progress;
 - Provide materials and training to help parents work with students to improve achievement;
 - Educate teachers and staff in how to communicate with parents and build ties to foster academic success;
 - Coordinate and integrate other federal, state and local programs to support parents in more fully participating in students' education;
 - Ensure information related to programs is sent to parents and families in understandable formats; and
 - Provide other reasonable support to encourage parental involvement
5. Schools Operating a Schoolwide Program: Each school operating a schoolwide program under this policy shall:
 - Involve parents on a timely and ongoing basis in the planning, review and improvement of programs, including the parent and family engagement school policy drafting and review, and the joint development of the schoolwide program.
 - If the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of the participating children, parent comments will be requested and submitted with the plan to the district.