



## District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Poplarville School District

**In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Poplarville School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.**

Poplarville School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA (Elementary and Secondary Education Act).
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including

providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand. • If the district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) families 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; and
- (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

**Description of how the district will implement the required district parent and family engagement policy components:**

**JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

Poplarville School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- There shall be, at a minimum, an annual meeting for all Title I parents of participating students to provide input into the planning of the program.
- All policies relating to the Title I program will be made available to parents on the district website and student handbook.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in the design, development, operation, and evaluation of the program for the next school year and to participate in planning activities, to offer suggestions, and to ask questions regarding policies and programs.
- Title surveys are conducted each spring to gather input from all stakeholders.
- Plans will be posted on the school website with copies available at each school.
- Title I Informational flyers will be available at the front desk of Central Office and each school.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Poplarville School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement 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:

- Training for school staff will be provided for implementing effective parental involvement activities, along with year-long communication and discussion of parent involvement policy and compacts.
- Regular meetings will be scheduled to allow parents to formulate input into the program.
- Participating schools will meet yearly to assist in the development and evaluation of Title I schoolwide programs.
- Assist all schools and their teams in developing school-level plans that increase parent and family engagement.

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

Poplarville School District will take the following actions to 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 its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- Parents will be encouraged to give comments and evaluation of the educational activities provided by these programs.
- An annual assessment of the parent involvement program shall be conducted to determine program effectiveness and to provide information for needed modifications of the programs. Surveys will be sent home with each student in the district and it will be made available for online completion.
- Survey data will be summarized and shared with each school for planning purposes.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

Poplarville School District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- Parents are invited to serve on each schools council and give input to the allocation of parent and family engagement funds
- The allocation of funds will be discussed at the LEA annual Title meeting.

- Surveys and feedback forms will be provided to allow for input in how funds are utilized.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

Poplarville School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs, such as Head Start, Pre-K, and English Language Learner that encourages and supports families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Parents will be informed of student activities, permitted, and encouraged to observe such activities
- Parental information will be provided in the parent's native language. ● Transition events will be held on each campus for parents and students to become familiar with new schools.
- Kindergarten Induction is held each year for incoming parents and students.
- The District maintains a partnership with local mental health professionals who serve students and families as needed both within and outside of school.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS**

Poplarville School District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- A. The challenging state academic standards;
- B. The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- C. The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- D. How to monitor their child's progress; and
- E. How to work with educators.
  - Parents will be provided with timely information through a parent newsletter, district web page, personal contacts, notices, etc.

- A parent center will be developed maintained, and upgraded, as funds are available, to provide aid to parents in working with their children to achieve greater educational progress.
- Each school in the district receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with parents of children served in the program a “School-Parent Compact” outlining the manner in which parents, school staff and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state standards.
- The district’s Federal Programs Director will provide technical assistance to participating schools’ administration to help develop strategies and plan/implement parental involvement activities that incorporate the suggestions of the community/ parent committees.
- Parents of participating students shall receive regular reports on the progress of their children

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

Poplarville School District will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and schools by: .

- Parent-teacher conferences will be scheduled to discuss the child’s progress, placement, and methods that the parents can use to help the child to learn.
- Every effort will be made to assure that information given to parents is up-to-date, meaningful, and understandable.
- Parents will be encouraged to visit schools during the year.
- Multiple technology tools will be made available to staff for communicating with parents and families.
- Training will be provided to staff on effective ways to communicate with parents and strategies for promoting parent involvement.