Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Communication Is Key

COMMUNICATION is critical to maintaining and advancing an effective parent and family engagement program.

The two words 'information' and 'communication' are often used interchangeably, but they signify quite different things. Information is giving out; communication is getting through.

Sydney J. Harris
Parent & Family Engagement

The Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA) describes parent and family engagement as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including...
Parent & Family Engagement

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
Parent & Family Engagement

- That parents 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.

U. S. Department of Education, Title I, Part A
The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place.

George Bernard Shaw

Two monologues do not make a dialogue.

Jeff Daly
Language and Format

REMEMBER! All information regarding student interpretive, descriptive, and diagnostic reports, plans, policy, compact, newsletter, parent meetings, and other required correspondence should be given in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. ESSA Section 1116 (b)(1) and (e)(5)
The Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Public Law Section 1116 (a) District Policy

The Statute
https://tinyurl.com/yb7a6fdh

The Parent and Family Engagement Handbook (See section 13)
https://tinyurl.com/y9bcm4qr

Policy Checklists and Examples
https://tinyurl.com/yagol7gh

Developing a Written Policy
https://tinyurl.com/ybjb6v4t
**Conduct Outreach**

LEAs **MUST**…

- **Conduct outreach** to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and families.

  ESSA Section 1116 (a)(1)
Consultation

LEAs **SHALL**...  

- Plan and implement programs, activities, and procedures with *meaningful consultation* with parents of participating children. ESSA Section 1116 (a)(1)
District Policy Content

At a minimum, the district parent and family engagement policy must include…

◦ Develop Jointly
◦ Build Capacity of Schools
◦ Coordinate Services
◦ Annual Evaluation
◦ Design Evidence-Based Strategies
◦ Involve Parents in Activities
Develop Jointly

- LEAs **SHALL**...

- Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and families of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that shall be incorporated into the LEA’s plan developed under section 1112 and establishes the expectations and **objectives** for parent and family engagement.

ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)
Develop Jointly

The policy **SHALL** describe how the LEA **WILL** . . .

- Involve parents and family members in jointly developing the LEA plan under Section 1112.  ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(A)
Be Smart

Expectations and objectives...

- S – Specific, strategic
- M – Measurable
- A – Attainable, achievable, action-oriented
- R – Realistic, relevant
- T – Time frame, timely, tracked
Build Capacity

The policy **SHALL** describe how the LEA **WILL**...  

- Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other necessary support to assist and **build the capacity of all participating schools** within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance... (continued to next slide)
LEAs **MAY** choose to consult with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education as a resource for building the capacity of the school, in particular the school staff. ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)
The policy **SHALL** describe how the LEA **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. ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(C)
Annual Evaluation

The policy **SHALL** describe how the LEA **WILL**... 

- Conduct, with **meaningful** involvement of parents and family members,
- Conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of schools, including... (continued on next slide)
Annual Evaluation

The evaluation **SHALL** identify:

- Barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or of any racial or ethnic minority background)

- **The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers**

- **Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.** **ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(D)**
Evidence-Based Strategies

The policy **SHALL** describe how the LEA **WILL** . . .

◦ Use the findings of the evaluation to design *evidence-based* strategies for more effective parental involvement, and

◦ To revise if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy. ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(E)
Involve Parents

The policy **SHALL** describe how the LEA **WILL**...

- **Involve parents in the activities of the schools**, which **MAY** include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the LEA to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the LEA for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(F)
Reservation of Funds

Any local education area (LEA) with a Title I, Part A allocation exceeding $500,000 is required by statute to set-aside 1% of its Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement.

- Of that 1%, 10% may be reserved at the LEA for system-wide initiatives and administrative expenses related to parent and family engagement.
- Of the 1%, 90% must be allocated to the Title I schools in the LEA to implement school-level parent and family engagement.
- Title I parents have the right to be involved in the decisions regarding how these funds will be used for parent and family engagement activities.
Communication Is Key

The basic building block of good communications is the feeling that every human being is unique and of value.

Unknown

Communication must be HOT. That’s Honest, Open, and Two-way.

Dan Oswald
Public Law Section 1116 (b & c) School Policy

The Statute
https://tinyurl.com/yb7a6fdh

The Parent and Family Engagement Handbook (See section 13)
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School Policy Content

At a minimum, the school parent and family engagement policy must include...

- Annual Meeting
- Flexible Meetings
- Work Together/Planning, Review, and Improvement
- Timely Information
- Curriculum+
- Regular Meetings
- Parent Comment
The school **S**H**A**L**L**... 

- Convene an annual meeting,
  - At a convenient time,
  - To which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend,
  - To inform parents (1) of the school’s participation under Title I Part A and explain (2) the requirements of Title I Part A and (3) the right of parents to be involved.

**ESSA Section 1116 (c)(1)**
Flexeible Meetings

The school **SHALL** . . .

- Offer a flexible number of meetings,
  - Such as meetings in the morning or evening,
- And may provide, with funds under Title I Part A, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

ESSA Section 1116 (c)(2)
WORK TOGETHER

The school **SHALL**... 

- Develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and families of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy; and

- Describe the means for carrying out the parent and family engagement program and strategies; and

- Make the policy available to the community, and

- Update the policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

ESSA Law Section 1116 (b)(1)
Planning, Review and Improvement

The school **SHALL** . . .

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of:
  - School parent and family engagement policy,
  - And the joint development of the schoolwide program plan (included in DIP/CIP).

ESSA Section 1116 (c)(3)
Timely Information

The school **SHALL**...

- Provide parents of participating children,
- Timely information about programs
  ESSA Section 1116 (c)(4)(A)
The school **SHALL** . . .

- Provide parents of participating children,
  - A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school,
  - The forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
- The achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards

ESSA Section 1116 (c)(4)(B)
Regular Meetings

The school **SHALL**...

- Provide to parents of participating children,
  - If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
  
  ESSA Section 1116 (c)(4)(C)
Parent Comments

The school **SHALL** . . .

- Submit any parent comments on the schoolwide plan, if it is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, when the school makes the plan available to the LEA. ESSA Section (c)(5)
Communication Is Key

The art of communication is the language of leadership.
James Humes

The words a leader speaks are important, of course. But how they're delivered can make all the difference, especially in tough times.
John Baldoni
Listen with curiosity. Speak with honesty. Act with integrity. The greatest problem with communication is we don’t listen to understand. We listen to reply. When we listen with curiosity, we don’t listen with the intent to reply. We listen for what’s behind the words.

Roy T Bennett, *The Light in the Heart*
Parental Involvement Policy - SASA Answers to Policy Questions Related to the Approval of Parental Involvement Policies

Merely because the Title I statute uses the word "policy" in the context of parent involvement does not determine whether a district's parent involvement "policy" must be reviewed by a local school board. Whether such a "policy" must be reviewed is a local decision. Section 1116(a)(2) of Title I describes what a Title I parent involvement policy must include. If these are not the types of matters that a school board would normally review, the mere fact that the statute uses the word "policy" should not be determinate. It must be in writing, however, and must be agreed to by parents of participating children. Further, a district must be able to implement its "policies" through whatever review process the district requires.
Communication Is Key

I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but I am not sure you realize that what you heard is not what I meant.

Robert McCloskey

Any questions???
Statewide Parent and Family Engagement Initiative
At Region 16 Education Service Center
Funded by Texas Education Agency

Go to www.esc16.net and click on the PFE icon

For more information, contact: t1pfe@esc16.net