

Chester County School District



District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

February 2019

The **Chester County School District** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental engagement activities meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

The school district will incorporate this district wide parental engagement plan into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents 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 involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- 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;
 - 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;
 - the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.
1. The **Chester County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - *Obtain input/review annually from parents at Title I schools by establishing a District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Committee.*
 - *Utilize parent survey results from schools during the Strategic Plan Renewal.*
 - *Post the CCSD Parent and Family Engagement Plan on the district’s website and ask for parent input.*
 2. The **Chester County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - *Ensure that each school maintains a School Improvement Council according to the requirements of the South Carolina School Improvement Council.*
 - *Ensure that each school provides an Annual Report to Parents.*
 - *Involve parents and community in the district’s Strategic Plan Renewal.*
 3. The **Chester County School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - *Provide two mandatory parent conferences (beginning of year & mid-year) each year for Title I schools.*
 - *Provide access to Parent Portal.*
 - *Provide an Orientation/Registration at each school site.*
 - *Ensure that each school maintains a website and social media site with current information.*
 4. The **Chester County School District** will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies in Part A with parental engagement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Child Find, Clemson Extension, First Steps, Adult Education, PTO/SIC, Full Day PreK, and the Hazel Pittman Center:
 - *Provide school and district parent and family literacy workshops.*
 - *Provide an Orientation/Registration for parents at each school.*

- *Ensure that parental engagement activities are provided at each school.*
- *Offer a district/school liaison to serve on community boards, such as First Steps.*

5. The **Chester County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental engagement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental engagement activities (with attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental engagement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the engagement of parents) its parental engagement policies.

- *Establish a District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Committee to annually evaluate the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan*
- *Parents of Title I schools will be asked to review the district plan each year and provide input/suggestions for improvement.*

The **Chester County School District** will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators: through...

- *Parent Conferences*
- *A Parent and Family Engagement workshop provided each nine weeks at each Title I school*
- *Parent and Family Engagement activities at individual schools such as Family Literacy Night, Family Science Day, Family Math Night*
- *School Improvement Council and PTO*

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement, by:

- *Parent and Family Engagement workshops provided by the schools and district*
- *Parent and Family Engagement activities such as Family Literacy Night, Coffee w/the Principal, awards programs, parent conferences, etc.*

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools:

- *Provide opportunities for professional development for school employees.*

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Child Find, public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as encouraging parent resource centers in our Title I schools, and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children:

- *Ensure that all Title I schools provide a Parent and Family Engagement Resource Center.*
- *Provide an orientation/visit/tour for Head Start children (entering Kindergarten) and their parents.*

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- *Utilize social media, such as Facebook*
- *School Newsletters*
- *Peachjar Flyers*
- *School Websites*
- *Announcements sent home w/students and/or posted on the school website*
- *Call Connect (when appropriate)*

This District wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Dr. Tammy Graham, Executive Director of Early Childhood and Elementary Education.

This plan will be reviewed annually by parents of Title I schools in the Chester County School District.

 (Signature of Authorized Official)

February 6, 2019 (Date)