



New Jersey Department of Education

Title I District-School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy are generally two separate documents; however, for one-school districts and charter schools, the components for the district and school policies may be addressed in either one policy (district/school policy) or two policies (district policy and school policy). If your district/school plans to combine all the requirements of both the district policy into one policy, make sure all required components of the district policy and school policy are included.

Title I District-School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Template

Part I. District Expectations

Each district must establish the district's expectations for parent and family engagement.
[Section 1116(a)(2), ESEA]

The **[name of school district]** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the Title I, Part A requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement policy into its district plan.
- 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 parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the school district plan for Title I, Part A funds is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan upon request by the New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE).
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I schools in decisions about how the one 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 one



percent reserved goes directly to the schools. (Only applicable for districts with Title I, Part A allocations greater than \$500,000.)

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

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

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

Part II. District/School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Required Components

1. The **[name of school/district]** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent and family engagement plan;
(List actions.)
2. The **[name of school/district]** will 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 of their school's participation under this part, and to explain the requirements of this part and the right of the parents to be involved;
 - a. *(Describe when and where the annual meeting will be held.)*
3. The **[name of school/district]** will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement;
 - b. *(Describe how flexibility is provided.)*
4. The **[name of school/district]** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
 - c. *(List activities.)*



5. The **[name of school/district]** will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement 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 schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - 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 to improve the achievement of their children.

(List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, both in-state and out-of-state, including any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to ensure success.)

6. The **[name of school/district]** will provide 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 such suggestions as soon as practically possible.
 - a. The school/district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by;
(List activities.)
 - b. The school/district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, other school leaders, 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 reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by;
(List activities.)
 - c. The school/district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, the Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public 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 children, by;

(List activities.)

- d. The school/district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I 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;

(List actions.)

7. The **[name of school/district]** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies under the following programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and state-operated preschool programs], by;

(List activities.)

8. The **[name of school/district]** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities (with particular 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 parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.

(List actions, such as describing how the evaluation will be conducted, identifying who will be responsible for conducting it, and explaining what role parents will play.)

9. The **[name of school/district]** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement;

(List activities.)

10. If the Annual School Plan (schoolwide program plan) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the Annual School Plan (ASP) when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

(List actions.)

Part III. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that



outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

(List actions.)

Part IV. Discretionary District/School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

The District/School Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds received, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- In order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improve parent and family engagement;
- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.
- Provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request.

(List actions.)

Part V. Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents of children with limited English proficiency, parents of children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

(List actions.)



Part VI. Adoption

This District/School 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 meeting minutes.

This policy was adopted by the **[name of school/district]** on **[date]** and will be in effect for the period of **[school year]**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children on or before **[date]**.

Signature of District Authorized Representative

Date

* This template of a District/School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been adapted from the template provided by the North Dakota Title I office.