

Selinsgrove Area School District

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2022-2023

Pursuant to federal law, the Selinsgrove Area School District and the parents of students participating in Title I district programs have jointly developed the following District Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The policy shall be implemented by the Superintendent or designee according to the timeline set forth in the policy and incorporated into the district's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

PART I – GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Selinsgrove Area School District agrees to implement the following requirements of section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act:

- The school district will involve parents in the development of a district level Parent and Family Engagement Plan who have participating children in its schools with Title I, Part A programs consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act. The school district will incorporate this district Parent and Family Engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent Engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the Every Student Succeeds Act.
- 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 Every Student Succeeds Act in an understandable and uniform format, 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 Every Student Succeeds Act, 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 parent 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 parent Engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent 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 are full partners in their child's education and play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school and included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.

PART II – IMPLEMENTATION

Engagement with Title I Planning

- The school district shall hold an annual meeting for Title I parents to review, modify, and/or edit the policy.
- The school district will notify and involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act in the event we are identified for school improvement or for corrective action.

District Support for Parent Engagement

The district shall provide the support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for strong parent Engagement to improve student academic achievement and school performance by doing the following:

- Hold regular Title I staff and administrative team meetings to improve parent Engagement

The district, with the assistance of parents, shall develop and implement a district professional development plan to enhance the skills of teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in:

- the value and utility of contributions of parents
- how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- implementing and coordinating parent programs
- building ties between parents and the school

Coordination of Parent Engagement Activities with other District Programs

The district shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent Engagement programs and activities with other district programs as appropriate, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their students, as well as the following:

- invite parents to participate in strategic planning process
- invite parents to school open houses, parent-teacher conferences, and PTSO meetings
- invite parents to join the Wellness Committee

Student Learning

The district shall coordinate and integrate Title I parent Engagement strategies with those of other educational programs in the district. The purpose of this coordination shall be to improve the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who:

- are economically disadvantaged
- have disabilities
- have limited English proficiency
- have limited literacy
- are of any racial or ethnic minority background
- are parent of migratory children

The district shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the Pennsylvania Academic Standards, PSSA requirements and reports, Title I requirements, how to monitor students' academic progress through Sapphire, and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of students. The district shall develop written materials and training for staff to help parents work with students to improve student achievement.

The Pennsylvania Parent Information and Resource Center (PA PIRC), which is funded through the U.S. Department of Education, is a new statewide effort benefiting children and their parents. Their mission is to help parents partner with schools and equip them with the knowledge and resources to ensure their children's success in academic achievement. PIRC projects such as conference, workshops, and materials focus, but are not limited to serving parents of low-income, minority, and limited English proficient (LEP) children. PA PIRC is housed at the Center for Schools and Communities in Camp Hill, PA and will work closely with the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) to support children, parents, and schools throughout the Commonwealth.

School-based Parent Engagement Activities

The National Parent Teacher Association research-based parent Engagement standards have been adopted as our expectations for how parents will be involved in activities in Title I schools:

- ***Communicating*** – communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful
- ***Parenting*** – parenting skills are promoted and supported
- ***Learning at Home*** – parents play an integral role in assisting student learning
- ***Volunteering*** – parents are welcome in the school and their support and assistance are sought
- ***School Decision-making and Advocacy*** – parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families
- ***Collaborating with the Community*** – community resources are used to strengthen schools, families, and student learning

Method of Communicating with Parents

All information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities shall be sent to parents in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand through the following ways:

- newsletters, email, web site, and/or telephone to promote student academic success
- Sapphire Notifications (all-calls, email, text)

Annual Evaluation

- The school district shall conduct, with the Engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy.
- Effectiveness shall be measured in part by improvements in student academic achievement and in school performance.
- Parents and staff will participate in a “round table” discussion on program needs, successful activities, and future topics.
- The district shall use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent Engagement and to revise, if necessary, this policy.
- The district shall provide such other reasonable support for parent Engagement activities as parents may request.

Development of School-level Title I Parent Engagement Policy

- Each school receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with and distribute to parents of students participating in the Title I program a written School-level Title I Parent Engagement Policy agreed upon by the parents in accordance with the requirements of federal law.
- The policy shall contain a school-parent compact or agreement that outlines how parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students.

PART III – DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

The Selinsgrove Area School District agrees to facilitate the success of the parent Engagement policy by the following:

- support a district-wide Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parent Engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- schedule school meetings at a variety of times and/or places to maximize parental Engagement and participation
- provide workshops for parents when program can financially support them

PART IV – ADOPTION

This District Parent Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This policy will be in effect for the period of one year from date below. The school district will post this policy online for all parents of participating Title I students to view.

Brian C. Parise, Federal Programs Coordinator

Mr. Paul Roman, Principal

Mr. Damian Gessel, Principal

Parent Representative: Ms. Jennifer Kerstetter

Parent Representative: Ms. Christina Sampsell

Parent Representative: Ms. Amy Scarsone