

**PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**  
**TITLE I**

Consistent with the parent and family engagement goals of Title I, Part A of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) and its reauthorization in Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the District will develop and implement programs, activities and procedures that encourage and support the participation of parents and family members of students in schools eligible for Title I services in all aspects of their child's education. The Board will also direct that all of the schools receiving Title I, Part A funds develop and implement school level parent and family engagement procedures, as further required by federal law.

The Board of Education believes that positive parent and family engagement is essential to student achievement, and thus encourages such involvement in school educational planning and operations. To that end, the Board adopts the following policy relative to Title I schools, parents, and children, and requires that each building served with Title I funds adopt a policy of parental engagement that includes at a minimum the following guidelines.

Such building policies for family engagement are to be developed jointly by a committee of administrators, teachers, support staff, and parents. Parent and family engagement may take place either in the classroom, during extra-curricular activities, or after school hours. However, the District also encourages parent and family engagement at home (e.g. planned home reading time, informal learning activities, and/or homework "contracts" between parents, family members and children). The Board directs the Superintendent of Schools to support home-school communication strategies in an effort to encourage all forms of parent and family engagement.

**Title I Parent and Family Engagement – District Level**

For the purposes of this policy, parental involvement refers to the participation of parents in regular, two-way meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other related school activities. At a minimum, parent and family engagement programs and activities at both the District and individual school levels must ensure that parents and family members:

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

The federal definition of the term "parents" refers to a natural parent, legal guardian, or other person standing *in loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or step-parent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child's welfare).

District and school level Title I parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures shall provide opportunities for the participation of parents and family members including those who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, parents and

family members of migratory children, and parents and family members with other barriers related to the successful education of their children.

As further required by federal law, all students and families in Title I schools will be provided an opportunity to participate in the development of the District's Title I Plan, and to submit comments regarding any aspect of the plan that is not satisfactory to them. Their comments will be forwarded with the plan to District level administration, and if a resolution is not found, to the State Education Department.

Parents and family members also will participate in the process for developing either a comprehensive or targeted "support and improvement plan" when the school their child attends is identified by the New York State Education Department as needing this plan.

### **Parent and Family Member Participation in the Development of the District-wide plan**

The Board of Education shall direct the Superintendent of Schools to undertake the following actions to ensure parent and family member involvement in developing a District-wide (not just Title I Schools) Family and Parent Engagement Plan. This plan will allow for appropriate input and focus on systems and actions which support children and families who are challenged with barriers that are limiting their academic and social success in school.

#### **The plan will:**

- Disseminate information that is clear to parents;
- Communicate and extend an open invitation to attend and actively participate in all outreach events;
- Provide opportunities for meetings to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, and participate in appropriate decisions to support learning for all children attending South Colonie Central School District;
- Seek understanding (eg. understand the challenges and barriers that students and families face) This can be accomplished through individual meetings/discussions, confidential surveys, etc.;
- Share information related to services and supports needed to address language barriers.
- Coordinate and align District resources to address other barriers related to daily attendance and learning (eg. Social Worker Support, McKinney Vento Coordination and Support, other supports related to basic needs, Counseling Services, Clinical Mental Health Support, etc.) ;
- Hold meetings in accessible locations; eg. meeting locations that are easy to travel to and are parent "friendly" (school buildings, community settings (eg. municipal buildings/local park space etc.);
- Create flexible meeting times to encourage parent and family participation;
- Utilize forms of communication (eg. different languages, online, mailings, letters home with students, phone, text, e-mail );
- Provide opportunities to elicit parent involvement (e.g. Open House, Parent Orientation, academic events such as literacy night and math night, community events hosted at the school buildings, etc.);

- Enhance community partnerships to distribute information, build relationships, establish trust, etc.

### **Development of School Building-Level Parental Engagement Approaches**

The Superintendent of schools will ensure that all schools receiving federal financial assistance under Title I, Part A are provided technical assistance and all other support necessary to assist them in planning and implementing effective Parent and Family Engagement programs and activities that improve student achievement and overall student well-being.

### **Building Capacity for Parent Engagement**

To build capacity for strong parental involvement to improve their child's academic achievement, the District and its Title I, Part A Schools will, at a minimum:

1. Assist parents in understanding NYS Learning Standards, NYS Benchmark Assessments, local academic growth assessments, Title I requirements, how they can actively monitor their child's progress, and become aware of ongoing communication strategies to ensure the success of their child in school.
2. Provide materials and training to help parents work to improve their child's academic achievement such as literacy training and the use of technology.

To achieve this objective, the District and its Title I schools will:

3. Educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, with the assistance of parents, in understanding the value and effectiveness of a team approach (school and home) for overall student success. Specifically, designated staff members will:
  - reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners for learning
  - implement and coordinate parent outreach programs
  - build ties between parents and schools
4. Ensure that information related to school and parent-related programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of children participating in Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats, upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.

**Coordination of Parental Involvement Strategies**

The District will coordinate and integrate strategies adopted to comply with NCLB, ESSA, Title I, Part A, Parental Involvement Requirements with Parental Involvement strategies adopted in connection with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public pre-school programs. It will do this by:

The Board of Education will direct the Superintendent of Schools to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of appropriate staff and parents, an annual review of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy in supporting students and families, and improving the academic achievement results in Title I Schools, including the identification of barriers for improved parental engagement, and the revision to build capacity for improved academic achievement. The District and its Title I, Part A Schools will, at a minimum:

- Host an end-of-year meeting with all appropriate stakeholders (parents, teachers, school leadership, etc.);
- Continuously review the needs of children and any barriers that may exist to improve daily attendance and academic growth. Adjustments shall be ongoing to meet current challenges;
- Share feedback from building or District level surveys related to needs or trends;
- Analyze data on an ongoing basis to adjust resource allocation to meet existing needs;
- Partner with Parent and Teacher Associations (PTA's) to support families and children and improve overall academic achievement;
- Provide translators or language related resources to families with those specific needs;
- Document and share meeting agendas and minutes from official planning or meeting events;
- Continuously look for ways to nurture and support family involvement (parent workshops, webinars, sharing articles, etc.).

Cross-Reference: 4010, Equivalence in Instructional Staff and Materials

Reference: 20 USC §§6318(a)(2); 7801(38), Every Student Succeeds Act §1116 of the  
Emergency and Secondary Education Act  
20 USC §6318(a)(2), No Child Left Behind Act of 2001  
34 CFR Part 200  
U.S. Department of Education, Parental Involvement, Title I, Part A,  
Non-Regulatory Guidance, April 23, 2004

Adopted: April 14, 2020

Note: *Policy 1222 will be abolished when 1900 is adopted*