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2020 - 2021

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

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What is Parent and Family Engagement?

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

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education.
- 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 1116 of the ESSA.



About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Lee County School District (LCSD) developed this parent and family engagement plan which establishes the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement. It also guides the strategies and resources which strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district’s Title I schools.

This plan describes LCSD’s commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to

support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children’s education. The LCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-parent compact meet the requirements of Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.





Jointly Developed

During the annual District Leadership Meeting, parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2020-2021 school year. This included discussion and input into the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and reservation of funds. Additionally, each Title I school used its input meetings to review the district parent and family engagement plan.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was posted to the district website for public viewing. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time via email or written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by May will be considered in the following school year's plan.

The district parent and family engagement plan is posted on district and school websites, distributed during the Annual Title I school meetings, and made available upon request at all schools.



Strengthening Our School

The school family engagement coordinators (SEC) will provide assistance and support to their Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the SEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in the Spring for principals, the SEC, and federal programs director to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the coming school year.

Reservation of Funds

The LCSD will reserve no less than one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2020-2021 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the LCSD will distribute no less than 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual Parent and Family Engagement Planning Meeting for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Feedback forms and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the school to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.



Annual Title I Meeting

Each school served under Title I, Part A will convene an annual meeting in early Fall, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the rights of parents to be involved in those programs.

- Explain what participation in Title I programs means, including:
- A description and explanation of the school's curriculum,
- Information on the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and
- Information on the proficiency levels students are expected to meet:
- Explain the district parent and family engagement plan and school-parent compact.

Additional Meetings

In addition to the Annual Meeting, schools will host at least three other parent meetings over a range of times throughout the school year to allow more parents the opportunity to become involved with the school. Notices will be sent out to communities in advance of these meetings to increase parent and family involvement. These meetings will provide parents with:

- Information about programs provided under Title I
- Student progress
- Opportunities to give input into decisions made at the schools

Communications

Parents shall be notified of the parent and family engagement plan in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent possible, provided in a language the parents can understand. Each Title I school shall 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. Each school shall also provide parents of participating children timely information about programs. 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.



School-Parent Compact

Each Title I school shall jointly develop with parents of all children served under Title I a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. The school-parent compact shall include the following requirements: revision and distribution dates, jointly developed, parent input, district and school goals, outline of school, parent, and student responsibilities for improved academic achievement, activities to build partnerships, communicate student progress, and shall be written in a family-friendly language.



Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. Each year, the LCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an Annual Parent Needs Assessment Survey, School Level Parent and Family Engagement Meetings, and comments received on the plan over the course of the school year.

Beginning in Spring, each Title I school will send out a Parent's Needs Assessment Survey to gain meaningful feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. Parent

input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to complete a survey and attend meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students reach academic achievement goals.

All parents are welcome to view the latest updates from the Lee County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan by emailing comments or sending written comments to their child's school.

The LCSD will use the findings from district forums, school forums, and survey results to design strategies to improve

effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plan.

Notices regarding the forums will be sent out to families in advance of the meetings via district communication tools. The district will also communicate information regarding these meetings using the district website and on the district and school websites.

The district Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be posted to the district website under the Federal Programs tab for public review. All school level plans will be posted to that schools website.

Feedback can also be submitted at any time to chris.conwill@leecountyschools.us

