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[South Toms River] Title I – School Parent
and Family Engagement

Apr 22

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[See POLICY ALERT No. 227]

2415.57 [South Toms River.] TITLE I – SCHOOL PARENT
AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

A. District Expectations

1. In accordance with the requirements of Title I, Section 1116(a)(2), ESEA, the Board of Education agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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.
 - c. The school district will incorporate this School Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its district plan.
 - d. 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.



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- e. 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).
- f. 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 ninety 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.)
- g. 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:
 - (1) “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



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(d) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

h. The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in New Jersey.

B. School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Required Components

1. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parent and family engagement plan:

- a. Convene an annual meeting
- b. Offer a flexible number of meetings
- c. Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs

2. The school 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 Title I, Part A, and to explain the requirements of this part and the right of the parents to be involved:

South Toms River Elementary will hold the annual meeting for participating students during Back to School Night. The meeting will take place multiple times, allowing all families to have an opportunity to attend.

3. The school will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, Part A, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement:

Parent meetings and programs are offered at various times, and events have occurred on weekends as well. Child care is provided and offered in partnership with district high schools and works directly with students needing community service hours.



An annual meeting takes place in June of each school year where parents and various stakeholders take part in the planning and review of this policy. In June of 2022, this policy was reviewed by all stakeholders, and revisions were made to meet the needs of West Dover Elementary best.

4. The school 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:
 - a. Timely information about programs under this part;
 - b. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels students are expected to meet regarding the challenging State academic standards; and
 - c. 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 practicably possible.

Parents and families receive timely information about programs through the following methods:

- Back to School Night
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Title I Annual Meeting
- School Safety Committee Meetings
- Family programs
- HIB Committee Meetings
- I&RS Meetings
- Weekly Newsletters



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- Use of online communication with families (eg. DOJO, Google Classroom, Remind)
 - Family Reading, Kinder - Grade 2
 - Full STEAM Ahead - K-2, 3-5
5. The school 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 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:
- (1) The challenging, state academic standards;
 - (2) The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
 - (3) The requirements of Title I, Part A;
 - (4) How to monitor their child's progress; and
 - (5) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.



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6. The school 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 will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such
 - b. as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement.
 - c. The school will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, student 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 to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.
 - d. The school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, 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.
 - e. The school will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other



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activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request,

and

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and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

7. The school will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies under the following programs: [Such as: Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, and state-operated preschool programs].

8. The school 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

9. The school will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:

10. If the Annual School Plan (school-wide 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.

C. Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement



1. 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:

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All families of students participating in Title I programs at South Toms River receive the Toms River Regional Schools Basic Skills/Title I School-Parent Compact. This compact must be acknowledged as a part of the beginning of the year forms and is provided in English and Spanish.

D. Discretionary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

1. The 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:
 - a. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
 - b. 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.
 - c. 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.
 - d. Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.



- e. 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

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directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school.

- f. Adopt and implement model approaches to improve parent and family engagement.
- g. Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- h. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.
1. Provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request.
 2. Shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;

Assistance if provided by:

- Back to School Night
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Title I Annual Meeting
- School Safety Committee Meetings
- Family programs
- HIB Committee Meetings
- I&RS Meetings



- Weekly Newsletters
- Use of online communication with families (eg. DOJO, Google Classroom, Remind)
- Family Reading, Kinder - Grade 2
- Full STEAM Ahead - K-2, 3-5

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2. Shall 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;

Assistance if provided by:

- Back to School Night
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Title I Annual Meeting
- School Safety Committee Meetings
- Family programs
- HIB Committee Meetings
- I&RS Meetings
- Weekly Newsletters
- Use of online communication with families (eg. DOJO, Google Classroom, Remind)
- Family Reading, Kinder - Grade 2
- Full STEAM Ahead - K-2, 3-5

3. Shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, 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 the school;



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Assistance if provided by:

- Weekly teacher/staff PLC Meetings
 - Parent visits a minimum of 3xs per school year
 - School Safety Meetings
 - Parent Teacher Conferences
 - PTO Meetings
 - Principals Weekly Newsletter
 - Title I Parent Workshops
 - Professional Development for staff
 - District Wide Professional Development
 - School Wide Professional Development
 - Family Reading, Kinder - Grade 2
 - Full STEAM Ahead - K-2, 3-5
3. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement 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;



Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; All families of students participating in Title I programs at South Toms River receive the Toms River Regional Schools Basic Skills/Title I School-Parent Compact. This compact must be acknowledged as a part of the beginning of the year forms and is provided in English and Spanish. All other materials sent from South Toms River are translated into Spanish, and Principal Weekly Newsletter is presented in Smore, allowing the newsletters to be accessed in any language.

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5. May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;

May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of

funding for such training;

6. May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;

7. May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;

8. May 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, in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation;

9. May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;



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11. May establish a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in programs supported under this section;
12. May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent and family engagement activities; and
13. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this section as parents may request.

E. Accessibility

1. 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

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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:

F. Adoption

1. This School Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on, parents of children

participating in Title
I, Part A programs, as evidenced by
meeting minutes.

2. This Policy was adopted by the Board of Education on the adoption date noted at the end of this Policy and will be in effect



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for the period of the school year. The school district will distribute this Policy to all parents of participating Title I children on or before October 1 of each school year.

Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I, Section 1116(a)(2)

Adopted:

