

West Feliciana Parish

District Parental and Family Engagement Plan

Background

Title I is a federally funded program that started in 1965, and supports educational and parent involvement opportunities for economically disadvantaged families.

In recent years, the program has become more coordinated and integrated into the entire educational program of each school. This school wide approach allows staff in schools with high concentrations of students from low-income families to redesign their educational program to serve all students, thereby maximizing the impact of Title I.

The Parental and Family Engagement Policy document should be viewed as relevant to all parents and helpful in strengthening the school-home partnership.

Statement of Purpose

A major goal of the West Feliciana Parish Title I program is to encourage greater involvement of parents in the education of their children in developing strong partnerships with teachers, principals, other staff, the community and their school.

Title I Guidelines for Parental Involvement, Section 1116 Every Student Succeed Act, reads that a local educational agency (LEA) receives funds under this part only if such agency implements programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in programs assisted under this part. Such activities shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Each LEA that receives funds under this part shall develop jointly with, agree upon, and distribute to parents of participating children a written Parental and Family Engagement Policy establishing the expectations for parent involvement and describing how the LEA will involve parents in the joint development of the plan.

The West Feliciana Parish School System is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. The child benefits if the school and home form a partnership promoting high expectations for our children. Parents are the children's first teachers. Parents' support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way. The West Feliciana Parish School District intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program. The goal is a strong, school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed.

General Expectations:

The West Feliciana Parish School system agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

The school district will put in to operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of all parents in its Title I schools, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental and family engagement requirements, 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 in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and in a language parents understand.

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

Parental 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 in 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.

1. Parental Involvement in Developing Written Plan

To assist schools in developing a school parental involvement plan specific to Title I schools, a District Parental and Engagement Committee, consisting of Title I staff, principals, school staff and parents, will be formed to develop the district (LEA) Parental Engagement Plan.

To assure that parents play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning, each Title I school will select two representatives to serve on the Title I District Parental Engagement Committee. The committee will meet once each fiscal year to review, discuss and revise the district Parental and Family Engagement Plan.

To disseminate the district plan to parents, it will be placed on the district's website, sent home with all students in the schools and housed in each school office and library. To make the plan available to the community, the District will place a copy of the plan in the public library.

State Assessment Data, School Report cards and District Performance Scores, will be given to parents to help them understand the accountability process so they have the necessary information to assist in developing a District Improvement Plan. Each school will

involve parents in the development of their School Wide Plan will decide what parent involvement activities are appropriate for their particular school.

The Federal Programs Supervisor and Central Office staff will provide coordination, technical assistance and support necessary to assist in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities. The Federal Programs Supervisor, Supervisor of Student Services, School Social Worker, Head Start Director, Supervisor of Early Childhood, and the Supervisor of Special Education will jointly plan activities that involve parenting, literacy, tutoring and working effectively with school personnel.

2. Annual Meeting for Title I Parents

Each school will conduct an annual Open House where parents will be provided information about the Title I program. At this meeting, parents may volunteer to serve on the district wide or individual School Advisory Committees. Parents will be apprised of state student performance standards, state and local assessments, the pupil progression plan, and ways to help their children. They will also be made aware of the resources available to them and where they can go to attain additional information regarding Title I services. Parents will be notified of the Open House meetings by letters that will be sent home with each student, fliers a newspaper announcement, TV and radio announcements, and information posted on the schools' websites.

3. School Parent Compact

Each school must share responsibility with the parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with parents of children participating in the program. These compacts will outline how parents, staff and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement. Parents on each school's Advisory Committee will be involved in designing these compacts.

The content of the compacts will be discussed at Parent Teacher Conferences and Parent Advisory Team Meetings each year. Parents will receive the compact from their child's school at the beginning of each school year. The compacts will include a checklist of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will have for helping students achieve these goals. Parents are urged to discuss the compact with their children. These compacts are maintained at the school sites.

4. Types of Parental and Family Engagement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved in their children's education. The West Feliciana School District values both at home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community.

Technology is a high priority in the WFSD. Parents have access through On-Course, the school and district websites and the teachers' web pages to acquire information

on their children's academic performance, activities, homework, and other learning expectations.

Each school hosts several parent involvement activities during the school year which parents are urged to attend. These include trainings and information sessions, literacy and math nights, family nights, conferences, and other opportunities. The sessions are held at different times to increase parent attendance.

Reading to children at home, talking with them at family mealtimes, providing an at home study period, monitoring TV programs, and making sure that homework assignments are complete are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. For additional ways that parents can become involved, parents should check with the child's classroom teacher building level principal, or Supervisor of Student Services.

The Supervisor of Student Services will share ideas on parenting, parent training, transition activities and resources with Head Start, Special Education, K-3, and community day care centers.

5. Matching Programs to the Needs of the Parent and Child

Each year the district will assess the needs of parents and students in the community through surveys and questionnaires sent home to parents. Parents will be provided many opportunities to participate in various educational programs.

Workshops training sessions, and other programs will be available, some for parents and children; some for parents, administrators and teachers, to match the expressed needs.

Parents will be notified about these opportunities through the individual schools, the district and school websites, and the local media. Parents may contact the District's Federal Programs/Early Childhood Supervisor, Zanolvia Curtis, at any time to make suggestions for a range of educational programs by calling 225-635-3891 or via email at curtis@wfbsb.org.

6. Reservation

Each Title I school will be allocated a percentage of Title I funds for Parental and Family Engagement based on the set asides in the Federal Consolidated Grant. Each school will be allocated a percentage of these funds based on the number of students enrolled. The remaining funds will be used for District-wide Parent Involvement activities. The Supervisor of Federal Programs will inform each school of their budget and the accounting procedures for submitting receipts and financial forms. District-wide parental and family engagement may include travel and registration for state and local parent conferences and meetings.

7. Coordination, Technical Assistance and other Support

The Supervisor of Federal Programs and Central Office Staff will provide the coordination, technical assistance and support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement. The Supervisor of Federal Programs, Head Start Director, Supervisor of Early Childhood, Social Worker, Homeless Liaison, and Special Education Supervisor will jointly plan district level parent involvement activities that include parenting, literacy, tutoring, and working effectively with school personnel.

The Supervisor of Student Services will collaborate with the public library to help parents with technology and literacy training.

8. Staff-Parent Communication

The school district will educate its teachers, pupil appraisal personnel, principals and other personnel in how to reach out to and communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

The West Feliciana School System will in-service all principals at the Principals' meetings in the values and utility of the contributions of parents and how to communicate with parents from all backgrounds. The principals will be instructed to conduct the same in-service with their teachers at their faculty meetings.

District informational packets consisting of calendars, fees, school activities and other information will be given to each student on the first day of school. A brochure describing the Title I program will be distributed at each school's Open House and sent home with students at the beginning of the school year. Also, during the school year a district newsletter will be made available to parents on the website and through the school office. Information related to school and parent programs will be posted on the District and school websites. Each school will also send notices, fliers, progress reports, a monthly parent newsletter and calendars of activities home with the children.

Communication will be made through telephone calls, letters, parent-teacher conferences, home visits, and e-mail. Home visits will be made when necessary by the Supervisor of Student Services, School Social Worker, School Resource Officer or any other personnel directly related to the educational growth and development of the child.

Parents are encouraged to talk their child's teacher when they are not concerned about a problem, as well as when they are concerned with a problem. Teachers are encouraged to send notes and make telephone calls to parents when their children are experiencing success, as well as when they are experiencing difficulties.

9. Building Capacity

To ensure the effective involvement of parents, to support a partnership between the schools, parents and the community, and to improve student academic achievement, each school will do the following:

Parents will be assisted in understanding the State's academic content standards, accountability system, local academic assessments, pupil progression and their children's progress at annual Open House meetings. Also, instructional awareness programs and parent-teacher conferences will be held throughout the year.

Literacy and Mathematics training will be provided to parents during planned parental and family engagement activities at each Title I school.

10. Evaluation

Parents of children in school wide programs will be involved in the development of the School Wide Plan at each school and in decisions of what Parent and Family Engagement activities are appropriate for their particular school.

An annual evaluation of the Title I Parental and Family Engagement Program will be conducted. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement is increasing at the school and district level and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome, with particular attention given to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy skills, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The district and each school will revise its Parental and Family Engagement Plan on the basis of the annual review.

11. Parental information and Resource Centers

There are no parent resource centers in our community. Each school will establish a parent information section. Parents will be notified of any parental involvement activities and resources that are available.

Adoption:

This district-wide Parental 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 agendas and minutes. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30 each school year.