

Wayne County School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024

June 20 2023

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What is Family Engagement?

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:

- (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.
- (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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Wayne County School System (WCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes our district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe WCSS'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 plan and school policy, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of 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 WCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed

During the summer of 2023, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the WCSS District Parent and Family Engagement Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. The plan was also posted on the school and district websites to solicit comments and input from families and community members through an online form. All feedback received by June 19th was considered for the final revision of the Wayne County School's District Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The Plan was submitted to the State as part of the Wayne County Schools Consolidated Local Improvement Plan (CLIP).

Additional opportunities for parents' input throughout the development of the CLIP were provided during parent meetings and shared through email, text message notifications, and on district and school websites. The Stakeholder Priority Survey was distributed in March of 2023 to help identify system priorities. The Title I Parent and Family engagement survey was distributed to all stakeholders in early spring to determine strengths and needs specific to family and community involvement. The Measurable Results Assessment for the Leader in Me initiative was distributed in the Spring of 2023 for parents to provide meaningful input on the climate and culture of schools and the school district.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on the district's website and disseminate it during the annual fall Title I school meetings. The plan will be available to all parents in a format and language they can understand. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school.

Strengthening Our School

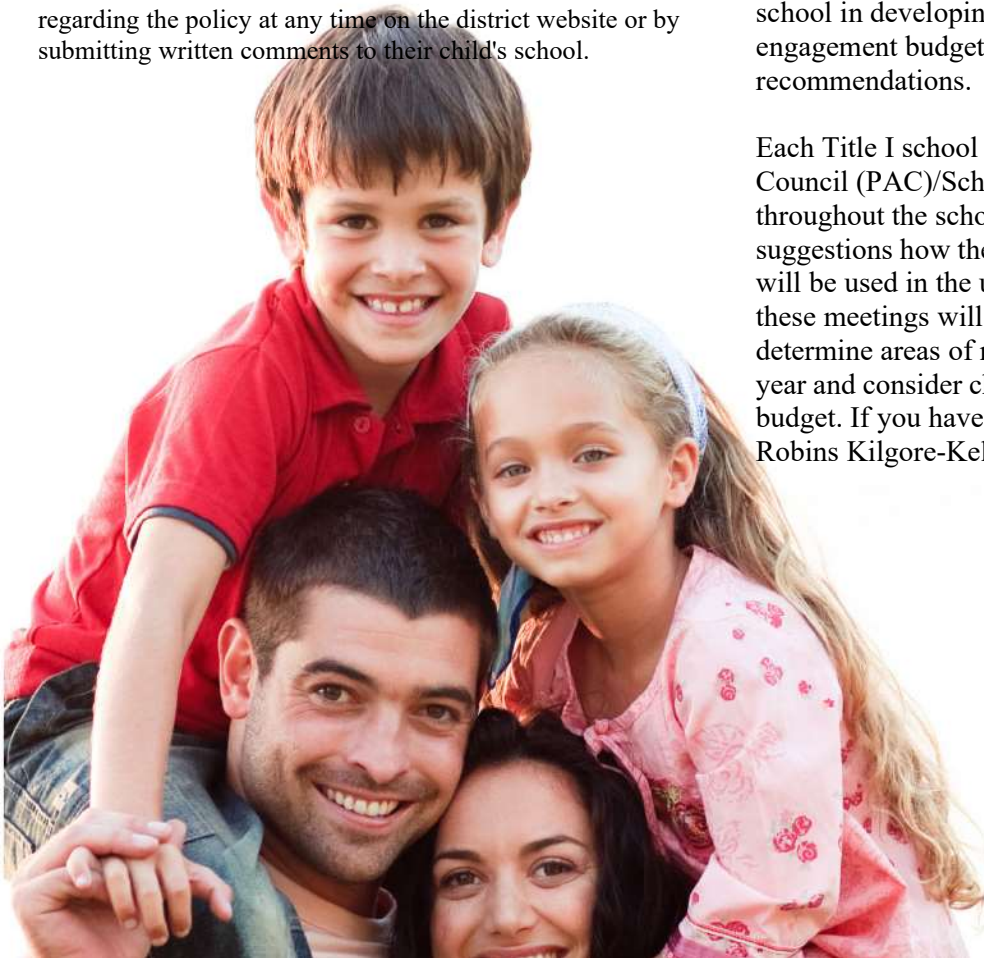
This year, the district Family Engagement Specialist (FES) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parent and family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FES to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and FES will meet throughout the school year with Title I Principals and the Parent Family Engagement Facilitators (PFEF) to review family engagement requirements, plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The WCSS will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2023-2024 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. School systems must reserve 1% of its Title I Allocation for parent and family engagement. Of the 1%, 90% is allocated to the Title I Schools and the other 10% is retained at the system level.

District staff and the PFEF will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parent and family engagement budget that addresses needs and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host Parent Advisory Council (PAC)/School Council meetings throughout the school year for parents to provide suggestions how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year. Minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact Robins Kilgore-Kelly in the district office.



Building Capacity

The WCSS will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community to increase family involvement and improve academic achievement. Effective family engagement is achieved when parents and teachers work together to drive student learning and student achievement. To build capacity, WCSS will implement various family and community engagement initiatives, such as Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT). APTT is an evidence-based family engagement strategy where teachers and families partner in addressing academic goals through at-home learning activities.

Of Parents - The WCSS will assist parents in gaining knowledge of challenging state academic standards, state and local assessments, and Title I requirements by providing meetings, workshops, and resources to help parents work with their children to improve achievement. The APTT Model of parent-teacher collaboration provides opportunities to foster a safe and welcoming team environment where all families can learn from one another and share experiences and strategies that benefit the entire classroom community. The team meetings serve to create an opportunity for classroom teachers to share important grade-level academic information, student progress data, and strategies that can help all families as they support their children in reaching high achievement goals. They are also a time for parents to give valuable input on their specific needs, request additional support, and suggest improvements to the program. Parent input provides schools with information regarding needed resources and materials, the use of technology or the harms of copyright piracy. As a team, parents and teachers will inspire collective action and responsibility for the academic progress of every child in the classroom. The APTT Model of parent-teacher collaboration also involves individual sessions between the student, the teacher, and the student's family to empower all partners to take appropriate and timely action on behalf of the student. These sessions offer a time when families and teachers can get to know one another and connect. Together, they influence and shape a child's love, motivation, and mindset for learning and personal effort. Teachers will provide parents with personal support in monitoring their child's progress and work with educators to collaboratively create a plan of action to cultivate the student's continued growth and improvement.

The WCSS will share the dates and locations for these opportunities and others on school websites and messaging systems. The district and school websites will contain resources and materials from APTT meetings and other engagement activities. Copies of the materials will be available at all Title I schools. All communication, resources, and materials will be in a language parents can understand.

The district parent and family engagement specialist, school facilitators, and Title I Principals will work with local early education programs and other federal and state-funded preschool programs to coordinate parent involvement efforts to have a greater impact on the community. Yearly parent orientations facilitated by WCSS Title I staff will be held at Wayne County Head Start to support parents of Pre-K children in making the kindergarten transition easier for their child. Working collaboratively with outside agencies, Title I schools will promote Kindergarten registration through various communication strategies, such as flyer's, public notices, and phone calls.

Of School Staff - Title I Principals and school facilitators will organize parent and family engagement training for teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, other school leaders, and staff during each semester of the school year. The district WCSS Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) will conduct APTT training for the entire school staff. FELT aims to coordinate the suitability and growth of APTT in the district. Training opportunities will focus on learning and discussing strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, create welcoming environments, and build ties with parents and the community. The PFES will also visit each Title I school to review and discuss Parent and Family Engagement requirements and initiatives. To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, APTT meetings, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post on-line information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the school year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, when applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and APTT meetings. The information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent applicable. The district will utilize all customary distribution systems and the school system website, local school websites, and social media sites to post and disseminate information to parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the ACSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Parents are surveyed annually to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent engagement programs. In March of each year, parents are given the option to complete the survey electronically. The findings of this survey are used to develop strategies for school improvement and/or to revise the LEA plan and school-level policy. These

findings are also used in planning future parent workshops and meetings. Areas evaluated are communication, district and school family engagement program(s), and school-home collaboration.

During the school level PAC/SC meetings, the WCSS will use findings from the survey results to design strategies to improve effective parent and family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the WCSS will ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Title I Parent Meeting
August/September

APTT Meetings
September/February/May

Annual Parent Survey
March, 2024

CLIP Input Opportunity
Spring/Summer 2024/
WCSS Central Office

For Schools

APTT and Leader in Me
Training
2023– 2024

Title I Principal Meeting
August 2023

Parent and Family
Engagement Team Meetings
Monthly

Adoption

This district wide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel.

This plan was adopted by the Wayne County School System on July 26, 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I-Part A children on or before November 1, 2023.

