

Freedom Trail Elementary School Title I School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Freedom Trail Elementary has developed a written Title I parent and family engagement policy with input from Title I parents. The school annually involves parents in the joint development and agreement of the policy, which is reviewed as part of the Single Plan for Student Achievement and through the school committees (e.g: Leadership Team, School Improvement Team, MTSS, Data Team, SEL Team).

The policy has been distributed to parents. The policy describes the means for carrying out the following Title I Parent and Family Engagement requirements.

Involvement of Parents in the Title I Program

To involve parents and family members in the Title I program at Freedom Trail, the following practices have been established:

- a) The school convenes an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of the schools participation in and requirements of the Title I program, and parents' right to be involved.
- b) The school will offer flexible meeting times and individual meetings for working parents or parents that are not able to attend an evening session or have child care issues (mornings, evenings, weekends if necessary). The school may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent involvement.
- c) The school involves parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way, in the planning review, and improvement of the school's Title I program. Parents are invited to review our Title I plan and make decisions for planning, review and improvements. Parents are provided with multiple opportunities to be involved, such as:
 - Open House
 - Read to Achieve Meeting
 - 5th Grade Parent Meeting
 - PTO meetings (PTO addresses the parent and family engagement plans at each of their meetings that are held quarterly.)
 - School Improvement Team (SIT) Meetings
- d) The Title I plan, as well as parent compact letters are sent home annually and available on our webpage and can be translated as needed.
- e) The school provides parents of Title I schools with:
 1. Timely information about programming through school-wide phone messages, school Facebook page, newsletters, meeting minutes, and Open House.
 2. A description of the curriculum in use at the school, forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.

- Freedom Trail Elementary will follow the curriculum provided from the NC Department of Public Instruction. We will evaluate student progress on an ongoing basis through benchmark assessments as well as our End of Grade tests in grades 3, 4 and 5 and End of Year assessments in grades K, 1 and 2.
- Data showing the distribution of achievement levels of those assessments will help inform decision making concerning use of resources and personnel funded by Title I.
- Curriculum information and testing, benchmarks, NC CHECKINS, iREADY and Amplify testing are shared with parents at parent-teacher conferences.
- Student progress in relation to state and local standards will be shared with parents including the curriculum being used, grade-level expectations for proficiency, and data reporting for state and local assessments.
- Interventions used in Reading and Math will be shared with parents.

3. Use of parent teacher conferences to go over the beginning of year data and goal setting for the remainder of the year (All parents are encouraged to attend and flexible times are given to all parents).

4. If requested by parents, the school provides opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions for improvement and to participate in decisions and respond to any suggestions relating to the education of their children.

f) If the school program is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, then parent comments and suggestions will be submitted to the school principal or Federal Programs Director when the plan is made available.

Building Capacity for Involvement

Freedom Trail Elementary engages Title I parents in meaningful interactions with the school. Freedom Trail has a strong school-community partnership that includes parents, business leaders, and community organizations. To help reach the parent and family engagement goals, the school has established the following:

a) During the Open House in August, parents are informed of grade level standards, academic assessments used to measure student progress and proficiency levels students are expected to meet. The Freedom Trail staff will strive to involve parents in activities throughout the school year. Parents will be made aware of these events via SchoolMessenger phone messages, class notes and newsletters, the school website, a school FaceBook page, and take home flyers.

b) The school provides parents with assistance in understanding the State Academic standards, State and local academic assessments, how student progress is monitored, and how to work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children.

- During parent-teacher conferences, through parent requests, and teacher on-going parent communication (live and virtual), information is shared on standards mastery, assessment data, interventions and how to assist parents in monitoring their child's education.

c) The school provides materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement and foster parental involvement.

- Training to enhance parents' abilities to support and assist their children's education is provided through Open House and Family Nights.

d) The school educates the teachers, student support personnel, administrators, and classified staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and equity of contributions of parents, in how to reach out, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implementing and coordinating parent programs, and building ties with parents and the community.

- Strategies to enhance parent involvement are integrated into the educational program and are discussed at leadership team, School Improvement Team, PLC meetings, and MTSS meetings.

e) The school shall, to the extent feasible and possible, coordinate and disintegrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including preschool programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

- Freedom Trail has strong community based support systems.

f) The school distributes information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, in a format and in a language that parents can understand.

- All parent communication is distributed to parents in either newsletter, virtual, or translated formats. School information, including information regarding the Title I program, is distributed to parents in the language spoken by the families of students in the school as outlined in the ESSA.
- Parent/Student Handbook (placed in front office and given out at open houses, and website)
- Parent/Teacher Conferences, Open House, New Student Orientation, Fall Festival, and Spring Celebration

g) The school provides other reasonable support for parental involvement activities that parents may request.

- Parent involvement strategies are shared with community partnerships.

Accessibility

Freedom Trail Elementary ensures that all parents have the opportunity to be involved in all parental engagement events, including parents with Limited English Proficiency, disabilities and migratory families. The following items strategies provided to parents in a language that is understandable:

- Parent Handbook, Website, Facebook, County Interpreters and ESL teacher, parent messaging, AlertNow Messages