



PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Part I. District Expectations

Parent and family engagement refers to the involvement of parents and family members of Groton Area District students.

The Board of Education recognizes that a child's education is responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goals of the school district to educate all students effectively, the schools and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

Although parents are diverse in culture, language, and needs, they share the school's commitment to the educational success of their children. School districts and schools, in collaboration with the parents, shall establish and develop programs and practices that enhance parent involvement and reflect the specific needs of students and families.

To this end, the Board will support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of a parent involvement program which will involve parents at all grade levels in a variety of roles. The parent involvement program will be comprehensive and coordinated in nature and will include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Support to parents as leaders and decision-makers in advisory roles.
2. Promotion of clear two-way communication between the school and the family as to school programs and children's progress.
3. Assistance to parents or guardians to develop parenting skills to foster positive relationships at home that support children's efforts and provide techniques designed to assist their children with learning at home.
4. Involve parents, with appropriate training, in instructional and support roles at the school.
5. Provision of access to and coordination of community and support services for children and families.

These forms of involvement are not mutually exclusive and require a coordinated school wide effort. A parent/guardian, student, employee, or District resident who has a complaint regarding the use of federal Title 1 funds should refer to the District policy AFF Complaint Policy for Federal Programs.

Part II. District Parental Involvement Policy Required Components

The Board believes that activities to increase parent involvement are a vital part of the Title I Program. Parents will have an opportunity to design, implement, evaluate, and suggest changes to improve the program. The guidelines are as follows:

1. Parental In-Service. Specific materials and suggestions will be provided to parents to assist in the education of their children at home. Suggestions for promoting educational activities at home will also be provide.
2. Student Program Report. Parents will be provided with student program reports at the end of each reporting period. If necessary, periodic written reports will be mailed to parents.
3. Parent-Teacher Conferences. Scheduled conferences will be held each year to keep parents informed on the progress of their children. Other conferences may be held on request of the parents or teacher.
4. Parent Advisory Committees (PAC). PAC may be established at each school to review the overall program and to suggest changes.
5. Meetings. At least one public meeting will be held annually where administrators, staff members, parents of participants, parent advisory committee and other interested parents may be present.

Agenda items at this meeting will include:

- a. Information concerning the views of parents and students about educational needs of Title I students and the priorities of student needs
- b. Review Title I applications and make recommendations for improving program activities for ensuing projects
- c. Review annual funding allocations and carry over funds
- d. Represent and express ideas and opinions of the parents and students of each school attendance area
- e. Assist the school district in the dissemination of Title I information to parents and the general public through the local media and school website
- f. Emphasis on supplemental instructional activities appropriate for achieving program goals and objectives
- g. In-Service for Teachers. Materials and information will be provided to teachers and other instructional staff involved in the program to assist them to work more effectively with the parents of participating students.
- h. Announcements. All parents and students are invited through social media, local media, school website, email, and notifications to the annual meeting or other school meetings. Information will be disseminated at these meetings advising involvement requirements. Reasonable support for parental activities will be handled in a timely manner.

Policy Dissemination. Policies, regulations and other Title I information will be made available to parents at each of the scheduled meetings and at parents' request at any time during the school year. Parents will be given an opportunity to be involved in the policy development process.

Part III. Discretionary Parent and Family Engagement Components

Parents and family members are most interest in opportunities for more involvement in the specific schools their children attend. Each school year, Title I schools will provide at least two of the following parent/family

engagement strategies to strengthen the school/parent partnership:

- Welcome Back Picnic and Open House will be held before each school year to encourage parents to meet their child's teacher and become better acquainted with the building. A meal will also be served to encouragement fellowship.
- Title 1 Open House Night will be held once a year. All families are encourage to attend to discuss and learn about our math and reading programs. A meal will also be served for those families attending.
- Math Family Game Night sponsored by OST will be held once a year. Families will be given the opportunity to play numerous math games that can easily be played with their children at home.
- Family Movie Night sponsored by PAC will be held at least once a year.
- Science Night sponsored by PAC will be held annually to promote science within our school.
- MS/HS Open House. Teachers, colleges, and recruiters are present to meet with parents about their programs and classes. A meal is provided to each of the families who attend.
- Inviting parents to eat lunch with their children and giving the parents the opportunity to share success, concerns and suggestions.
- Providing a monthly activity calendar to inform parents of all upcoming events and activities taking place within the District.
- Sending messages through social media, school website, and school app to provide the most recent news and events taking place within the District.

Part IV. Adoption

The district wide parent and family engagement plan has been adopted by the local school board and will be distributed to all parents of participating Title I, Part A schools at the beginning of each school year.

[Amended March 8, 2021]