

La Grange ISD District Parent & Family Engagement Policy 2019-2020

La Grange Independent School District will implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its campuses with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its campuses to ensure that the required campus-level parental engagement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental engagement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parental engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its campuses will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with 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.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served at Title I campuses in decisions about how the one percent of Title I funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the campus.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental Engagement, and expects that its Title I campuses will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental 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;

Statement of Purpose

La Grange Independent School District is dedicated to providing a quality education for every student in our district. In support of the district mission, La Grange ISD will continually enhance student performance on the state achievement standards through constant improvement upon our school system, as well as encouraging and welcoming engagement from the entire community; La Grange ISD will develop and nurture partnerships with parents/caregivers, students, and community stakeholders. Furthermore, the district will involve parents/caregivers in all aspects of the various local, state and federal programs offered in La Grange ISD schools.

Parent Involvement in Developing the Policy

La Grange Independent School District will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I campuses in planning and implementing effective parental Engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Federal Program Director from the district level to serve in an advisory capacity to the Title I campuses.
- A district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental engagement in Title I, Part A programs

- A district meeting of parents/caregivers, community members and campus personnel to provide feedback and input on campus plans, policies and budget allocations
- Appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental engagement activities

La Grange Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district/school parental engagement plan:

- Actively recruit parents/caregivers to participate in parent advisory capacity
- Schedule meetings at convenient times and locations to participate in a comprehensive review of policy, budget and programs for parent engagement
- Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and provide transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental engagement
- Facilitate communication between parents/caregivers and Title I campuses.

Annual Meetings for Title I Parents

La Grange Independent School District uses Title I funds to provide school-wide services for all students enrolled on Title I campuses. The Title I campuses will hold at least one meeting annually to review Title I guidelines and services offered at campus level. Copies of the district's current Parent Involvement Policy and campus designed Parent-Student Compact will be distributed at the meeting. Both documents will be provided in English and in Spanish. The meeting will be held at a convenient time and location; notice of the meeting will be provided through public announcements and school based information flyers. Translators will be available to help with non-English speaking parents/caregivers.

La Grange Independent School District 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.

The district will, with the assistance of its Title I campuses,

- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental engagement activities, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
- Arrange school meetings at a variety of times between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school

Matching Parent Engagement Programs to the Needs of the Community

La Grange Independent School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:

- The school/district will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - the state's academic content standards
 - the state's student academic achievement standards

- the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- the requirements of Title I
- how to monitor their child's progress
- how to work with educators

The La Grange Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies under Title I with the following other programs such as: Head Start, Preschool programs, Family Literacy programs, English Language classes, and Parenting Involvement programs.

Staff/Parent Communications

With the assistance of its Title I schools and parents, the district will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals 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 implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

The school/district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- Translators provided at the campus level for Spanish speaking parents
- District phone call out system set up in English and Spanish based upon the primary language identified for the home
- Translations for all Title I information will be provided in both English and Spanish

In carrying out parental engagement communication, districts and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.

School-Parent Compacts

As a component of the school-level parental engagement policy, the Title I campuses 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. This compact will be provided by each Title I campus and parent/campus/student signature will remain on file for easy access. The parent compact will be reviewed yearly for updates and revision.

Evaluation

La Grange Independent School District will take action to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental engagement policy in improving the quality of Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental 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 parental engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary and with the engagement of parents its parental engagement policies.