

East Stroudsburg Area School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Policy 918-Attachment
2022-2023
Updated August 2022
50 Vine Street
East Stroudsburg, PA 18301
www.esasd.net

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 ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the East Stroudsburg Area School District (ESASD) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the 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 ESASD'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 and school plans, and programs, activities and procedures for involvement of parents in all of our schools. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (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. Consistent with Section 1116, the ESASD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

During the annual District Title I Parent Meeting, all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the upcoming school year. Parents/stakeholders are invited to provide feedback via the district's annual parent survey and the annual meeting for the purposes of reviewing and updating the district's existing parent and family engagement policy. The district and schools communicate these opportunities in a variety of ways including posts on district website, flyers sent home, phone calls, and emails. At this meeting parents review and give input for the district parent and family engagement policy. Recommendations from parents included the following:

- Enlist building Parent Teacher Organizations in information sharing, growing membership, increasing communication.
- Offer alternative ways to participate in annual review of this policy (not just in person, i.e. surveys, email, Skype).
- Form a committee to meet at least once per year to review this policy.
- Increase diversity of the committee (gender, ethnicity, disability, language) through increased outreach.
- Include a more personal invitation to parents, in multiple forms.

Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time. Any feedback received by July 1st will be included with the policy for the next school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.



Strengthening Our School

The district Coordinator of Federal Programs/Grants (CFP) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the CFP to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the CFP will hold annual meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school staff to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the CFP will assist schools in developing, reviewing, and updating, with the assistance of parents, their school-level parent engagement policy and school-parent compacts. ESASD will also ensure that parents are informed about available resources at Open House, Parent-Teacher conferences, parent workshops, and family nights.

Reservation of Funds

The ESASD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives each year to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the ESASD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Annual surveys, parent meetings, and School Comprehensive Planning Team meetings, as well as postings on district and school websites will allow parents to view the family engagement budget and to provide suggestions on how family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school levels. Further information will also be available in the district's annual budget, which is made available to the public.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school level plans that are developed each year. All parents are invited to attend the meetings and/or participate in the opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our academic achievement goals.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, 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 required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

Annual District Parent and Family Engagement Meeting ~ Summer

All parents are welcome to learn more about the Title I program in the East Stroudsburg Area School District, as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy for the upcoming school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

Monthly School Board Meetings

ESASD School Board of Directors' meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the district Central Administration Building. Title I public participation is on every agenda. Parents are encouraged to attend meetings and provide input regarding the Title I program.

Annual District Parent and Family Engagement Survey ~ Spring

Parent input on the effectiveness of the Title I program, and use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs, may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.esasd.net to review the meeting documents.



Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access Title I information from the ESASD website.



Building Capacity

The East Stroudsburg Area School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

Of Parents - The East Stroudsburg Area School District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology, to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- 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, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

ESASD will build further capacity by sharing information through the district and school websites and school newsletters, and offer workshops/activities at various times and locations to accommodate parents' differing schedules. The district will also utilize local media and social media to share information and successes.

The district will provide parents with a glossary of educational acronyms.

ESASD will maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting phone conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.

Parents will be encouraged to attend a state conference on family engagement, paid for by Title I parental involvement funds. ESASD will pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

ESASD will provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.

The East Stroudsburg Area School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local programs, i.e. Head Start, Pocono Alliance, local preschools, local health organizations, etc., that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by planning activities that address identified needs based on parent surveys.

Of School Staff - The East Stroudsburg Area School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

- Offering workshops and trainings, and opportunities to learn to utilize social media tools for parent engagement
- Including all staff, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers (to the extent possible) in professional development
- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year the district will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy through an annual parent survey. Each spring the district will post its online annual survey, with hard copies available to be sent home at parents' request. Parents will be notified of the availability of the survey via the district website, flyers sent home, and phone calls and/or emails. This survey will solicit valuable feedback from stakeholders. The district will use this feedback to design strategies to improve effective family engagement and train staff in effective communication with families.

The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. ESASD will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement

policy to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, ESASD conducts individual surveys following specific district family engagement events (i.e. Literacy Night, Teach Me to Read at Home, Kinderversity, Quick Start to Kindergarten, etc.).

ESASD will enlist Title I buildings' Parent Teacher Organizations in information sharing, growing membership, and increasing communication, and utilize different media formats to present information.

Adoption

This district parent and family engagement policy is developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes and signature sheets from the annual parent meeting, email reviews of revisions, and results of the annual parent survey. Any necessary revisions will be made following the sharing of this document at a meeting of the ESASD School Board of Directors Policy Review Committee.

This policy was originally adopted by the East Stroudsburg Area School District on December 18, 2017 and is reviewed annually. The school district will publish this policy on its district Title I webpage for all parents of participating Title I, Part A.

