

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2017-2018

Note: This policy establishes Wyoming County School's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, and describes how the county will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and is incorporated into the county's plan submitted to WVDE.

PART I. General Expectations

The **Wyoming County Title I Department** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- 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 informed participation of parent and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children) including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents and family members of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The school district will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and engagement policy is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will use funds reserved under subparagraph (A) to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the parent and family engagement policy, including not less than 1 of the following:
 - a. *Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for local educational agency and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.*
 - b. *Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.*
 - c. *Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.*
 - d. *Collaborating, or providing sub-grants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.*
 - e. *Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the local educational agency determines are appropriate and consistent with such agency's parent and family engagement policy.*

PART II. Description of How the District will Implement Required District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components.

1. The **Wyoming County Title I Department** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

To ensure a comprehensive range of opportunities for parent and family participation, Wyoming County will implement a variety of home and school based programs,

activities and procedures to provide meaningful consultation with parents and to build the school's and parents' capacities for strong involvement.

- An annual meeting convened at each individual school in the month of September 2017 to explain the programs and activities provided, discuss parent and family involvement aspects of the program, solicit parent and family participation, and discuss a school-parent compact. All parents of participating students will be invited and encouraged to attend this meeting.
- An annual parent meeting held in March 2018 at each school followed by a countywide parent council meeting in early April 2018 for the specific purposes of consultation with parents about the Title I project for the next fiscal year and to conduct an annual evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Program.

2. The **Wyoming County Title I Department** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the development of support and improvement plans under section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

The Title I Program will conduct annual meetings in the spring for consultations with parents about the Title I Project for the next fiscal year and conduct an evaluation of the Title I parent and family engagement program. These meetings will be conducted according to the following procedures:

- A. An annual Parent meeting will be held at each individual Title I School in the month of March for the specific purposes of consultation with parents about the Title I Project for the next fiscal year and to conduct with the involvement of parents an annual evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Program. Survey questionnaires will be disseminated to all participating parents to obtain recommendations for the Title I Program and evaluate the Parent and Family Engagement Program. From these school-based meetings, parents will have input into the planning and design of the program and have the opportunity to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Program plans, procedures and policies.
- B. Each individual Title I School Parent Council will select representatives to attend a county-wide Parent Council meeting in April. At this meeting the following activities will be conducted with parents:
 - Parents will discuss the Title I program and make recommendations for the program for the next fiscal year. Each individual school Title I staff will report on the school level parent meetings held in March 2018, and recommendations made for the program at these meetings. These suggestions will be discussed and comments will be solicited from the parents on these suggestions. For recommendations made in consultation

with Title I parents, timely responses will be given during the writing of the Title I Project for the following fiscal year.

- Parents will be informed of individual Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Programs and activities by Title I staff from each school.

Title I staff will review the parent survey/evaluation results and will be used to identify successful parent involvement strategies, barriers to participation, and to make recommendations for improving the Parent and Family Engagement Program.

To the extent feasible and appropriate, parent recommendations will be used to help design strategies for school improvement and revise, if necessary, the parental and family engagement policies.

3. The **Wyoming County Title I Department** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

Coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary will be provided to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement through a variety of techniques:

- A. Provide parents and staff information and materials on required and effective parent and family engagement policies and practices.
 - B. Provide resource materials for parent and family engagement programs and activities.
 - C. Coordinate a county-wide Parent Council Meeting.
 - D. The Title I Program will conduct and/or support other activities as appropriate and feasible designed to help parents become a full partners in the education of their children.
4. The **Wyoming County Title I Department** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies under the following other Federal, State, and local programs: Home Instruction Program for Pre-school Youngsters, and State-operated pre-school programs, by: Wyoming County WV Pre-K.
To the extent feasible and appropriate, the LEA will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with Wyoming County WV Pre-K by providing mutual parental involvement training and information for parents.
 - A. Collaborate with Head Start through the county Pre-school Program to assure success with Pre-school as it relates to parents.
 - B. Collaborate with Special Services and the county Pre-school Program to provide information to parents and families.

5. The **Wyoming County Title I Department** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 teacher; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents and family members) its parent and family engagement policies.

- An evaluation questionnaire will be distributed to all participating parents to obtain recommendations for the Title I Program and evaluate the Parent and Family Engagement Program. The questionnaire will be in a survey type format, where the Principal/Title I teacher at each Title I school will be responsible for providing all parents a copy of the survey, collecting the surveys, and tallying the results. The evaluation questionnaire (survey) will be updated yearly, as necessary. From the survey and school-based meetings in March 2018, parents will have input into the planning and design of the Parent and Family Engagement Program, as well as the effectiveness of the plan, procedures and policies.

6. The **Wyoming County Title I Department** will build the schools' and parent's Capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the challenging State academic standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I, Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

1. Schools will provide training schedules for parents incorporating topics listed in the bullets above.
2. The LEA will provide parenting materials such as Home & School Connection, Reading Connection and Math and Science Connection.
3. Schools will provide meetings as they relate to WV College and Career Readiness Standards, State Academic Standards, and Student Achievement.

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, 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 (including education about the harms of copyright piracy, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement).
In addition to part A activities above, the schools will provide literacy and mathematics training using technology as indicated from the parent surveys as a need. This activity will be indicated on a parent and family engagement schedule at each school.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, 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, by providing guidance on implementation and coordinating through the Title I website provided by WVDE Title I and Title I staff trainings. Schools will include on their staff agenda a time for presenting and discussing quality parent involvement.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by coordinating and integrating parent and family engagement strategies with the local Head Start Program and state-run public pre-school program by providing mutual parent involvement training and information for parents. The LEA will collaborate with Head Start and childcare programs through Special Services and the county pre-school program.
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that 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 and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

The LEA and schools will facilitate information in a clear understandable and uniform format to parents regarding parent-programs, meetings, and activities. This will be accomplished through calendars, newsletters, teacher notes, phone calls, LEA *Facebook* page, Mobile App, and other media upon need and request.

PART III. Discretionary District Wide Parental Involvement Policy Components

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing 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;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs during meetings, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.

PART IV.

This District wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting documentation.

This policy was adopted by the Wyoming County Board of Education, July, 2017 and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents and family members of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 21, 2017 (Welcome Back Magazine).

Debbie Hall,

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