

Title I Local Education Agency Parent and Family Engagement Policy

All Local Education Agencies (LEA) receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA. The ESSA states that the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the LEA plan (Consolidated Application), and distributed to parents of participating children in a format and language that parents can understand. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

The policy states how the LEA involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Plan (Title I Application) (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*).

- The Fort Cherry School District annually surveys all parents regarding their perception of the education their children receive in the District. This survey is sent in the Spring.
- Data from the survey helps to guide how to use Federal funds to allocate supports in the District (e.g. grade bands serviced, emphasis of reading vs. mathematics, etc.).
- The Fort Cherry School District holds a minimum of two (2) meetings annually: The Title I Annual Meeting in Fall and the Parental Advisory Committee meeting in Spring. Information and input gained from the Parental Advisory Committee meeting guides the development of the Consolidated Application and use of Federal funds. The Annual meeting reviews relevant data, discusses plans for supports and interventions, details the use of Federal funds from the Consolidated Application, and presents strategies to involve parents in their child's education.

The policy states how the LEA involves parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)*).

- At all meetings, the District reviews ongoing performance data relevant to the Consolidated Application. This includes, but is not limited to, IXL Diagnostic Data, CDT, PVAAS, PSSA, and DIBELS 8.
- A third meeting is sometimes held in to discuss progress at the mid-year time period and progress toward stated goals from the Consolidated Application.
- The District accepts all feedback and seeks such feedback about school review and improvement through yearly survey data and its two annual meetings, which are open to all stakeholders.
- The District makes recommendations during these meetings, and it earnestly seeks feedback from stakeholders on the stated goals and perceived needs to improve school performance.

- For families unable to attend, the meeting is held virtually to adapt to flexible and changing family schedules.
- Virtual meetings are recorded and posted to the District website. A notification is sent to families via the District app, and written feedback may be submitted thereafter.

The policy states how the LEA provides technical assistance and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(B)*).

- As a small school district, the District values parent and family engagement at all levels. Therefore, the District earnestly seeks feedback and suggestions from its building administrative team as well as families and community stakeholders on providing meaningful parent/family engagement opportunities.
- As part of its strategic plan, the District has focused efforts on being data-driven, responsive to student needs at the Tier I level, and driven to provide supports to Tier II and III students who need them. As such, the District provides communication in both virtual and written form that aligns to the vision for student success and improved academic achievement.
- For scheduled Parent/Family engagement activities, the District uses either funds from the appropriate Federal program or funds from its General Fund. Additionally, the District has a robust Foundation for Education that can provide supplemental supports in both financial and human resources to provide additional assistance during such events.

The policy states how the LEA will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other federal, State, and local laws and programs (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(C)*).

- Being a small district, the Fort Cherry School District seeks to incorporate Federal, State, and Local laws and programs into its parent and family engagement.
- The District partners with Head Start and Pre-K Counts agencies to ensure that there is a bridge between pre-K and kindergarten programming for families. While not operated by Fort Cherry School District, the Pre-K Counts program is housed in Fort Cherry Elementary Center, which allows students to see the building and incorporate into some programming, including lunch and recess.
- The District partners with Washington County Children and Youth and other CYS agencies both in and out of Pennsylvania to support students receiving services or who are homeless or in foster care.
- All students at Fort Cherry School District receive free breakfast.
- The District participates in the National School Lunch Program, providing free and/or reduced lunches to eligible students in the District.

The policy states how the LEA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools, including identifying

- barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, 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 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. (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii).*
-
- The District annually surveys families to identify parent desires and needs, as well as their desires for their child/children's education.
 - The District is continually seeking suggestions to increase parental involvement and attendance at parental involvement activities.
 - Based on the feedback received, the District makes adjustments to its programming and/or policy and procedures to ensure that participation is open, available, and accessible to all families.

The policy states how the LEA will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(E).*

- The District uses the results of the annual survey to help form the foundation for the design and goals incorporated in the Consolidated Application.
- Feedback received at both the Parental Advisory Council and Annual meetings also form the foundation for potential revisions to the Parent/Family Engagement Policy.
- The LEA policy (918) is reviewed annually by the Board of School Directors.
- Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the District has begun to offer more blended, hybrid, and fully virtual training to meet the demands of busy schedules.

The policy states how the LEA involves parents and family members in the activities of the school, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs to the population; revising; and reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(F).*

- The District holds an annual Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting. The PAC is comprised of stakeholders throughout the LEA, and the District follows an open membership invitation to all District stakeholders.
- As a small District, the Fort Cherry School District welcomes ongoing parent feedback from all stakeholders in both formal and informal settings. When such feedback is received, the District takes such feedback to the PAC for potential updates to the Parent/Family Engagement policy.

Use of Funds

Please note: this section only needs to be included in the policy of the LEA receives \$500,00 and more. For all other LEAs this section can be deleted.

- The District does not receive more than \$500,000 in Federal funds. Should this change, the District will revisit this section of the procedures.

If the LEA reserves \$500,000 or more and are required to set aside 1%, funds shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the LEA's parent and family engagement policy, including not less than one of the following:

Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for LEA 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 (*ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(i)*).

Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school. (*ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(ii)*).

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 (*ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(iii)*).

Collaborating, or providing subgrants 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 (*ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(iv)*).

Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the LEA determines are appropriate and consistent with the LEA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(v)*).