

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

District Policy

The St. Landry Parish School Board recognizes that parent and family engagement is the key to academic achievement. The term “**parent**” refers to any caregiver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, foster parents, step-parents, etc.

Research indicates when parents and other key family members are involved in their children’s education; the attitudes, behaviors and achievement of students are positively enhanced.

1) The District:

- Disseminates the Parent and Family Engagement Handbook/Policy through meetings, grade level workshops, parent/teacher organization/association meetings, parent conferences, and other professional workshops.
- Meets annually with administrators, teachers, paraprofessionals of each Title I school and supervisory staff to review, reorganize and/or evaluate policies and schoolwide and targeted assistance plans.
- Meets annually with administrators, teachers, and paraprofessionals of each Title I school and supervisory staff to review, reorganize and/or evaluate the School-Parent Compacts.
- Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will assist the Title I Schools in the preparation of materials for parents and attends school’s parent-teacher “Back-to-School” conferences/meetings.
- Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator meets annually with parents of Title I participants informing them of their child’s participation in the Title I program.
- Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator meets annually with the district advisory board and the action team members of each Title I school to discuss requirements, updates, ESSA and changes as it relates to Title I.
- Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator meets if required, with the district advisory board in regards to dissatisfaction or complaints.
- Highlight parent and family engagement activities through the media, through newsletters to parents at the district and school level, and through broadcasts on radio and television.
- Help parents develop parenting skills to meet the basic obligations of family life and foster conditions at home, which emphasize the importance of education and learning.
- Provide schools with activities and partnerships that are designed to help reach schools improvement goals and objectives.
- Collaborate with the community and other, local, state and national agencies to offer services for students, parents and other family members.
- Support the schools in their effort to contact hard-to-reach parents and family members via meaningful “Home Visits.”

2) **The District will ensure that each Title I school has:**

- A written comprehensive parent and family engagement policy that meets the needs of all students participating in the Title I program.
- A plan to ensure that parents and key family members are involved in the development of school-wide and targeted assistance plans.
- An “**Action Team**” is organized at each school for the school, family and community partnerships. The action team will take responsibility for assessing present practices including school improvement, implementing selected activities, and coordinating practice for all six types of involvement.
- Periodic scheduled meetings at the school with teachers, administrators, and other staff to discuss the curriculum, standards and assessments or innovative strategies the school is using to improve learning.
- A plan to inform parents of their child’s progress prior to the nine-week reporting periods.
- Prepared packets of essential information that will help parents feel comfortable with the staff and school environment.
- Developed a technology friendly environment for parents to access information and skills regarding the school’s total available resources/curriculum.

3) **Building Capacity for Involvement – Title I Parent and Family Engagement will:**

- Assist all Title I schools in developing a comprehensive parent and family engagement program that will meet the needs of the students and their families served.
- Provide parents and other key family members with a handbook about the Title I program, district policies, and procedures.
- Inform and explain to parents how their children are identified as Title I and why they are participating in the Title I program.
- Disseminate the district Parent and Family Engagement Handbook/Policy through parent meetings, grade level workshops, parent-teacher organization meetings, parent conferences, and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) workshops.
- Offer meetings, workshops, training, etc. at flexible times so that maximum number of parents can be involved.
- Promote two-way communications (home-to-school and school-to-home) about programs serving Title I students, student progress, school curriculum, and the assessments used to measure student progress.
- Involve parents, and family members with appropriate training, in instructional and support when at the school and in other locations that help the school and students reach state given objectives and standards.
- Provide training to parents in the following areas:
 - Academic Curriculum
 - Six Types of Involvement
- Help parents develop a feeling of partnership in the educational growth and development of their children.
- Encourage parents and other family members to actively participate in all school related programs and activities

- Provide parents and family members with strategies and techniques for assisting their children with learning activities at home that support and extend the school’s instructional program
- Provide parents and family members with skills to access community and support services that strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning and development.
- Help parents and family members develop parenting skills to meet the basic obligations of family life and foster conditions at home, which emphasize the importance of education and learning.
- Provide schools with activities and partnerships that are designed to help reach schools improvement goals and objectives.
- Collaborate with the community and other, local, state and national agencies to offer services for students, parents and other family members.
- Support the schools in their effort to contact hard-to-reach parents and family members via meaningful “Home Visits.”
- Provide parents with the “Parents’ Guide” Understanding ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).

4) Parents Right to Know:

- Parents will be informed in a timely manner information regarding the professional qualifications of their children’s classroom teachers.
- Procedures will be in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

5) The District will coordinate with other Agencies by:

- Hosting workshops that focus on early childhood education, specific subject areas and grade level meetings that target needs of Title I students.
- Informing parents of Title I students about on-going activities initiated and conducted by other agencies in the district, especially Head Start and Preschools programs.
- Encouraging parents to accept and/or participate in the services provided by the community and other local, state and national agencies.

5) The District will enlist the services of an Action Team at each school and challenge them to provide the following:

- A parent and family engagement policy that meets the school’s current needs based on the latest information from the individual School Report Card.
- The school’s specific strategies to increase and document parent participation at each site.
- The school’s specific programs or activities to promote greater awareness to diminish barriers for the disabled and economically disadvantaged.

6) The District will:

- Highlight activities parent engagement activities through the media, through newsletters to parents at the district and school level, and through broadcasts on radio and television.
- Help parents develop parenting skills to meet the basic obligations of family life and foster conditions at home, which emphasize the importance of education and learning.

- Provide schools with activities and partnerships that are designed to help reach schools improvement goals and objectives.
- Collaborate with the community and other, local, state and national agencies to offer services for students, parents and other family members.
- Support the schools in their effort to contact hard-to-reach parents and family members via meaningful “Home Visits.”
- Prepare a handbook and resource guide for parents with general information about the Title I program, district policies, and procedures.
- Provide parents with the “Parents’ Guide Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Parent Involvement will further promote the required federal and state guidelines through the operation of Family Resource Centers. Six centers are currently operating under Title I Parent and Family Engagement.

Purpose of the Family Resource Center:

The purpose of the Family Resource Center is to serve as a resource for parents in order to encourage and support children in their learning efforts. The centers are designed to provide learning experiences for parents and family members to work more effectively with their children at home. Parents can receive information, instructional materials, personal assistance, training and support to help provide the best education possible for children. Teachers and students may also take advantage of the center activities and resources. The centers will provide and disseminate all literature pertaining to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Goals of the Family Resource Center:

- To help parents gain confidence and effectiveness in parental roles as their child’s primary and most important nurturers, teachers, and advocates.
- To help parents gain effective linkage with education, health, and human services agencies in the district and statewide.
- To provide new ways for parents, educators, and children to work together.
- To connect the home, school and community together.

Participant:

The Family Resource Centers are open to all parents and family members of the Title I students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through eight.

Schedule:

The regular school schedule is observed (8:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday). The centers offer some morning, afternoon, and evening hours to accommodate working and non-working parents and other family members.

School Level

Each School identified as Title I will:

- Have a written comprehensive parent and family engagement policy that will meet the needs of all students participating in the Title I program.
- Ensure that parents are involved in the development of school-wide and targeted assistance plans and decisions made about how to carry out Title I.
- Have an “**Action Team**” for school, family and community partnerships. The action team will take responsibility for assessing present practices, implementing selected activities, and coordinate practice for all **Six-Types of Involvement**.
- Hold periodic scheduled meetings at the school with teachers, administrators, and other staff to discuss the curriculum, standards and assessments or innovative strategies the school is using to improve learning.
- Inform parents of their child’s progress prior to the six-week reporting period.
- Prepare a packet of essential information that will help parents feel comfortable with the staff and school environment.
- Inform parents in a timely manner about the professional qualifications of their children’s classroom teacher.

Compacts - Each school will develop a compact that will describe:

- How parents will be responsible for supporting their child’s learning at school and at home.
- How the school will provide a “supportive and effective” environment for all students.
- The importance of communication between teachers and parents and students.

A Compact is a commitment to sharing responsibility for student learning and an action plan for family-school-community partnership to help children get a high-quality education.

In order to further enhance parental involvement in St. Landry Parish schools, especially those schools receiving Title I funds, parent involvement will support Section 1116 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), National Education Goals and use as a model, the Six Types of Involvement outlined by the National Network of Partnership Schools-School, Family, and Community Partnerships.

The Six-Types of Involvement NNPS (National Network of Partnership Schools):

These six types of parent involvement roles require a coordinated school-wide effort that has the support of parents, teachers, students and administrators at each school site.

- **Parenting:**
Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills, understanding child and adolescent development, and setting home conditions that support children as students at each age and grade level. Assist schools in understanding families.
- **Communicating:**
Communicate with families about school programs and student progress through effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications.
- **Volunteering:**
Improve recruitment, training, work, and schedules to involve families as volunteers and audience at the school or in other locations to support students and school programs.
- **Learning at Home:**
Involve families with their children in learning activities at home, including homework and other curriculum related activities and decisions.
- **Decision-Making:**
Include families as participants in school decisions, governance, and advocacy through Action Teams, PTA/O (Parent-Teacher Association/Organizations) school councils, committees, and other parent and family member supportive programs.
- **Collaborating with the Community:**
Coordinate resources and services for families, students, and the school with businesses, agencies, and other groups, and provide services to the community.

District/School Level Assessment

The District will use the NNPS Self-Assessment for School, Family and Community Partnerships as an aid in preparation, planning, and evaluating activities at both levels. This instrument will be used in conjunction with other methods of evaluations according to the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).