



Southwest Region School DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As authorized under ESEA, as amended

School Year 2024-25
Revision Date: April 23, 2024

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Overview

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Southwest Region School District** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The **Southwest Region School District** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in Section 1116 of the ESEA, as amended:

- The school district will conduct outreach to all parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A Programs to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. [§1116(a)(1)]
- 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, as amended, and each include a component of the school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA, as amended. [§1116(b)] & [§1116(d)]
- In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents 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, as amended, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. [§1116(e)(4)]
- If the district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, as amended, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state. [§1116(b)(4)]
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 - Parent Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
 - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - 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; and
 - the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116. [§8101(39)]

Required Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

Joint Development

The **Southwest Region School District** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of the district plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA, as amended, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA, as amended.

The district shall hold an annual meeting for parents of students in Title I programs to review and discuss the district parent engagement policy. The purpose will be to get feedback and input from parents to ensure that the plan is revised to address the feedback provided. These meetings will occur at each of our schools and will be open to the public. In addition, a parent consultation packet will be sent to each parent describing all the different methods for which parents can communicate your concerns and/or what is going well. The Southwest Region School District PAC will participate in the development of this district plan at least annually.

Technical Assistance

The **Southwest Region School District** will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools within the district in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

The district shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for strong parent involvement to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

This coordination, assistance and support shall include:

- Allocating district resources to parent involvement activities;
- Allocating district resources to provide opportunities for parents and community members to participate in School Board meetings via distance delivery from each site;
- Having the site Principal, or his or her designee, include the leadership duties of a Parent Engagement Coordinator at his or her school;
- Making district policies and programs available via the district website;
- Mailing out and posting on the district website all annual notices on district-wide academic performance and parents rights including: FERPA, PPRA, Schoolwide Title I Program Eligibility, etc.
- The district will review all school parent engagement policies and parent-school compacts to ensure the requirements are being met and parents have the opportunity to participate in the development of the plan. All parent-school compact forms are on file at each site.
- The district will provide guidance on the purpose of family engagement being more than just academic events or one-time activities but getting parents involved in needs assessments, identifying needs, plan development, etc.

Coordination

The **Southwest Region School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

The district shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with Head Start, local Tribal Organizations, district preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their students. These include, but are not limited to:

- Designating other district support for parent and teacher development and training to include social development of all early childhood age children.
- Collaborating with Head Start to screen early childhood age children for developmental delays or disabilities.
- Collaborating with local Tribal Organizations to support parent engagement activities.

Annual Evaluation

The **Southwest Region School District** will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—

- (i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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);
- (ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
- (iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

The district shall conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy. Effectiveness shall be measured in part by the participation of parents/community members on committees, planning teams, and traditional family engagement events. The evaluation will include a parent survey, an opportunity to provide feedback at a public meeting in each community, and a consultation packet will be sent to each parent describing the methods they can provide feedback to the district. The district will be leading the efforts for evaluation.

The district shall use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this policy. The district shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Evidence-Based Strategies

The **Southwest Region School District** will use the findings of such evaluation listed above to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies.

- The term evidence-based means an activity, strategy, or intervention that—
 - (i) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on—
 - (I) strong evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
 - (II) moderate evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
 - (III) promising evidence from at least 1 well designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or
 - (ii)
 - (I) demonstrates a rationale based on high quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and
 - (II) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.

The district will analyze the evaluation data and work to align the results to evidence-based strategies. One strategy is to implement “at-home” visits during one of the parent/teacher conferences. Instead of asking parents to go to the school, teachers would go to the homes. There is evidence that this builds communication and trusting relationships. Another strategy is to provide several parent nights centered on supporting learning at home through education-based games and activities and provide the resources that parents can then take home. The district is exploring opportunities to collaborate with outside agencies to provide family engagement activities based on the identified needs of parents including experts in effective family engagement activities, incorporating a Yuuyaraq professional development at our schools to connect to the culture and values of parents.

Development, Revision, and Reviewing of Plan

The **Southwest Region School District** will involve parents in the activities of the Title I, Part A schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

There are meetings that occur in each community to present the district parent engagement policy and annual evaluation in order to get feedback that will drive any revisions to the plan. The district seeks feedback through an annual parent survey. The Southwest Region School District PAC will participate in the development of this district plan.

Reservation of Funds

The **Southwest Region School District** will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. (Only applicable to districts with an allocation of \$500,000 or more.)

- Funds reserved under this section by the district agency shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the district's parent and family engagement policy, including not less than 1 of the following:
 - (i) 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.
 - (ii) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
 - (iii) 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.
 - (iv) 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.
 - (v) 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.

The district ensures that at least 100% of the 1% reservation will go to sites. This will be the responsibility of the Federal Programs Department as the ESEA consolidated application is completed each year. Annually, each school will hold a public meeting to gather input on how the 1% reservation should be spent to support the parent engagement plan. This is done at the same time as the annual meeting to get input from parents on the school Title IA budget.

Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

The **Southwest Region School District** will with the assistance of its Title I, Part A 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 and family members in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children
- The requirements of Title I, Part A

The district shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor students' academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of students. The district shall develop written materials and training for staff to help parents work with students to improve student achievement. This includes, but is not limited to:

- *Sending a letter and posting on website the District Report Card in the fall to all parents in the district notifying them of the District's Tier designation and suggesting ways they could work with the school and the district to support improvements.*
- *Sending a letter to parents of LEP identified students informing them of the program and exit criteria and asking if the parents want their child involved in the LEP program.*
- *Sending a consultation packet with information about program evaluations, grant information, methods to contact the district, and online resources for parents to support learning at home and in the school.*

Other strategies to be considered include:

- *Create a professional development plan for teachers centered around effective communication strategies (language) for conversations centered around successes and challenges of students*
- *Create a timeline for implementation of these strategies. For example, September – introduce yourself; October – communicate about learning goals and expectations; November – communicate about academic progress; etc.*

Building Capacity of School Staff

The **Southwest Region School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

The district ensures that the school staff receive a copy of all district communication sent to parents, Tribal Councils, and other partners. The district works with each school to develop school based parent engagement plans, to present information at local public meetings. The district will provide online resources to staff about strategies to effectively engage parents; and also encourage returning staff to work with new staff on the best strategies to engage parents.

Other strategies to be considered include:

Create a professional development plan for teachers centered around effective communication strategies (language) for conversations centered around successes and challenges of students

Create a timeline for implementation of these strategies. For example, September – introduce yourself; October – communicate about learning goals and expectations; November – communicate about academic progress; etc.

Building Capacity for Engagement – Optional

NOTE TO THE DISTRICT: The district parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESEA, as amended:

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each Title I, Part A school and district –

- ☐ may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- ☐ may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- ☐ may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- ☐ may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- ☐ may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- ☐ may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- ☐ may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section; and
- ☐ may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

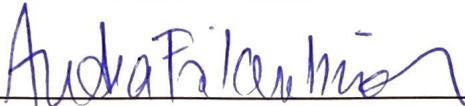
(Describe how each discretionary items checked above will be implemented.)

Adoption

This district parent and family member engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the minutes from the SWRSD Parent Advisory Committee.

This policy was adopted by the **Southwest Region School District** on **May 8, 2023** and will be in effect for the period of **2024-25**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **April 30th, 2024**.

Printed Name of Superintendent: Audra Finkenbinder

Signature of Superintendent:  Date: April 3, 2024