

## **STUDENTS**

### **Series 500**

Policy Title Parent and Family Engagement District-Wide Policy Code No. 505.08

Parent and family engagement is an important component in a student's success in school. The board encourages parents and families to become involved in their child's education to ensure the child's academic success. In order to facilitate parent and family involvement, it is the goal of the district to conduct outreach and implement programs, activities and procedures to further involve parents and families with the academic success of their students. The board will:

(In each of the following six items, the board must describe within this policy how it will accomplish each of the items. This mandatory policy is not complete without providing specific information for each of these six categories.)

Involve parents and families in the development of the Title I plan, the process for school review of the plan and the process for improvement by: having parents and families participate in stakeholder groups and in-person meetings where parents give input and feedback. An annual meeting, held in the fall, informs parents and family members of the requirements of the program and their right to be involved. Notification of this meeting is sent in JMC.

Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance by: providing parents and family members with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. Parents and family members receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the expected proficiency levels in the annual progress report distributed to stakeholders in the spring of the year, through individual reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.

To the extent feasible, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies outlined in other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs by: working with local public preschool programs, Headstart programs, local library programs, and special education programs (IDEA). In addition, the district's homeless education program will coordinate with the local backpack program to offer support to students that are food insecure, especially over the weekends.

Conduct with the 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 the school served including identifying: barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I activities (with particular attention to low-income parents, Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents, parents of any racial or ethnic minority, parents with disabilities and parents with limited literacy); needs of parents and family to assist their children's learning; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions by: including parents in a meaningful manner. In addition to surveys, the district uses focus groups and open discussion groups for this evaluation. Parents and families have a voice. The evaluation tools and methods identify the type and frequency of school-home interactions and the needs of parents and families to have to better support and assist their children in learning. The evaluations will target at least three key areas: barriers, ability to assist learning, and successful interactions.

Use the findings of the annual evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family involvement and to revise, as necessary, the parent and family involvement policies by: uncovering best practices that are working and adapt those ideas to the district and individual school needs. The findings are also used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. A jointly developed school/parent compact outlines how parents and family members, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact also describes

the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve our local high standards. This is distributed in the parent student handbook and is reviewed at the annual meeting.

Involve parents and families in Title I activities by: establishing a parent advisory committee comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs to the population. The school will provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.

The district shall involve parents in determining how to allocate reserved Title I funds in accordance with applicable laws.

The board will review this policy annually. The superintendent is responsible for notifying parents and families of this policy annually or within a reasonable time after it has been amended during the school year. It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

**NOTE: This is a mandatory policy and accompanying regulation. The intent of this portion of Every Student Succeeds Act is that districts will uniquely tailor this policy in a manner and format that suits the needs of their individual community. As a result, there are underlined spaces within this policy that indicate areas where the district should add their own plans after having taken the steps to collaborate with parents and families. This policy is not complete without the necessary description of how each district intends to implement the policy.**

Mail updated policy to:  
Iowa Department of Education  
Title I Office  
Grimes State Office Building  
Des Moines, IA 50319

**Legal Reference:**  
20 U.S.C. §6318

**Cross Reference:**  
903.02 Community Resource Persons and Volunteers

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