

MASON COUNTY SCHOOLS DISTRICT WIDE Parental, Family, and Community Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The **Mason County School District** 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, Title III, Special Education, Preschool, and general education 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, Title III, Special Education, Preschool, and general education, 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, families, and community 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 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.
 - 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 DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENT, FAMILY, and COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The **Mason County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents, families, and community members in the joint development of its district wide parent, family, and community engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Parents, families, and community members will be notified by the County of the district wide parental, family, and community involvement policy.
 - Parents, families, and community members will be invited to assist in the development of the district wide parental, family, and community involvement policy.
 - The Mason County Schools Parent, Family, and Community Advisory Council will work on revisions to the district wide parental, family, and community involvement policy.
 - The county will provide assistance to parents and families with English as a second language, as well as parents and families with literacy comprehension difficulty so they may participate. They will also be provided with information about the Title I, Title III, Special Education, Preschool, and general education services available to their children and other services they may be eligible for in order to meet their individual needs.
2. The **Mason County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents, families, and community members in the development of support and improvement plans under section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Parents, families, and community members will be notified and invited to become a part of the Local School Improvement Councils (LSIC) at each school in the district.
 - Parents, families, and community members will be notified and invited to become a part of the Mason County Schools Steering Committee.
 - Parents, families, and community members will be notified and invited to become a part of advisory groups at schools in the district.
3. The **Mason County School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist all schools planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
- Title I funds are used for parent, family, and community involvement. Each Title I school develops a plan to maximize parent, family, and community involvement.
 - All schools will be required to plan and implement effective parent, family, and community involvement activities.
 - The county will annually provide training for administrators on keeping an open line of communication between school and home, effective parent, family, and community involvement, and finding volunteers to help in the schools.
 - The county will provide information on its website to help parents, families, and community members and will encourage each school to put information on their websites to support parents, families, and community members.
4. The **Mason County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent, family, and community engagement strategies in all schools with parent and family engagement strategies by:
- The county Director of Special Education will work closely to coordinate and integrate all the universal preschool programs in the county.
 - The county will provide technical assistance to schools in having effective transition plans in place.
 - Parental, family, and community informational meetings will be part of the transition process. Each school will be responsible for holding at least one meeting for the parents, families, and community members in their enrollment area.
 - Focus on social/emotional growth in all Preschool programs with Positive Behavior Support programs.
 - Each school in the county will hold parent, family, and community informational meetings.
5. The **Mason County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents, families, and community members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its 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, families, and community members) its parent, family, and community engagement policies.
- The county will annually survey parents, family, and community members.

- The county will analyze the data received from the surveys and adjust parent, family, and community involvement practices in all schools.
- Survey results will be used to modify the policy as needed.

6. The **Mason County School District** will build the schools', parent's, and families' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, families, 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:
 - School district will provide parents, families, and community members information annually on how to work with educators.
 - School district will provide parents and families with the results of students' annual assessments, including alternate assessments.
 - School district will provide parents and families with multiple opportunities for conferencing with teachers (i.e. Student Assistance Team Meetings [SAT] and individually scheduled conferences).

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents/guardians 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, by:

- Requiring all schools to provide parent, family, and community meetings/trainings.
- Convening Mason County Steering Committee involving all parents, families, and community members in the district.
- Collaborating with the Family Resource Network and other community agencies.

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/guardians as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, families, and community members and in how to implement and coordinate programs and build ties between parents, families, community members and schools, by:

- Utilizing the SchoolMessenger System, LiveGrades, Mason County Schools App, and the LEA website to communicate with parents, families, community members, and stakeholders.
- Annually train administrators in the district on how to effectively work with parents and families to assist in their child's education.

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental, family, and community 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:
- Working with the Director of Special Education to coordinate and integrate the universal preschool program.
 - Providing technical assistance to schools on effective transitioning processes in place throughout the school system.
 - Providing information regarding school registration.
 - Holding parent, family, and community informational meetings as part of the transition process. Each school will be responsible for holding at least one meeting for the parents, families, and community members in their enrollment area.
 - Each school is responsible for providing a transition activity during the school day for PK to K, K to 1, and when students are changing buildings (6 to 7 and PPS/PPIS 2 to 3).
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent, family, community 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:
- Survey at each school, in the enrollment packet, requesting if the need exists to send information to the home in a different language or format.
 - The county will support schools in formatting all information in a language parents and families can understand.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The District wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents and families, 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:

- involving parents, families, and community members 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;
- 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 other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This District wide Parental, Family, and Community Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A, Title III, Special Education, Preschool, and general education programs, as evidenced by Mason County Steering Committee minutes.

This policy was adopted by the **Mason County Board of Education** on **July 9, 2019**, and will be in effect for the period of the 2019-2020 school year. The school district will make this policy available to all parents and families of participating Title I, Part A, Title III, Special Education, Preschool, and general education children by posting it on the county website on or before September 30, 2019. Printed copies are available upon request.



Jack Cullen
Superintendent, Mason County Schools



Date