

Hickman County Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2025-2026
115 Murphree Avenue
Centerville, TN 37033
www.hickmank12.org
(931) 729-3391



What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) 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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Hickman County School System (HCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan; and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe HCSS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school,

stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district plan and school policy, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for school and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The HCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed

Parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the HCSS District Parent and Family Engagement Plan for the 2025-2026 school year. The plan was also posted on the district website to solicit comments and input from families and community members. The plan will be submitted to the State as part of federal monitoring upon request.

Additional opportunities for parents' input throughout the development of the plan were provided during parent family engagement meetings at the Title I schools. The Title I Needs Assessment survey was distributed to all stakeholders in all schools in early spring to determine strengths and needs specific to family and community involvement.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on the district's website and disseminate it during the fall Title I school leadership meetings. The plan will be available to all parents in a format and language they can understand. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time by contacting the district office (Attn. Federal Programs Department) or by submitting written comments to their child's school.



Strengthening Our School

This year, the District Family Engagement Coordinator will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parent and family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the District Family Engagement Coordinator to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the District Family Engagement Coordinator will meet throughout the school year with Title I Principals and the Parent Family Engagement Facilitators to monitor and discuss family engagement requirements, plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The HCSS will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2025-2026 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. School systems must reserve 1% of its Title I Allocation for parent and family engagement. Of the 1%, 90% is allocated to the Title I Schools and the other 10% is retained at the system level.

District staff will provide guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parent and family engagement budget that addresses needs and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host meetings throughout the school year for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year. Minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact the Family Engagement Coordinator, Julia Thomasson, at (931) 729-3391

Building Capacity

HCSS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities.

Of Parents - HCSS will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. HCSS will provide informational sessions for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Tennessee students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these sessions will be posted on the schools' website and shared through each Title I school's newsletter. HCSS has established a districtwide family engagement/Parent Advisory Council committee composed of family representatives from each Title I school's family engagement committee to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this committee. The district will encourage collaboration and participation with community partners. HCSS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host a Kindergarten Orientation event so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten.

The HCSS will share the dates and locations for family engagement opportunities and other events on school websites and messaging system. All communication, resources, and materials will be in a language parents can understand. The district parent and family engagement coordinator, school facilitators, and Title I Principals will work with local early education programs and other federal and state-funded preschool programs to coordinate parent involvement efforts. Title I schools will promote Kindergarten registration through various communication strategies, such as flyers, public notices, and phone calls

Of School Staff - To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.



Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you! If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the district's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the front office at your child's school.

Name (optional): _____

Phone Number (optional): _____

Comments:
