

Quitman County School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

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, including 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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Quitman County School District (QCSD) has developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe QCSD'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 and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. QCSD 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

During annual (State of the District) Input meetings in FY2022, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2022-2023 school year. The FEC sent notification to all parents informing them about these meeting and posted announcements on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the Comprehensive Support and Improvement School's Plan. Additionally, each Title I school used its Parent Input meetings to review the district parent and family engagement plan before the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by May 2022 was considered for revisions to this plan.

The district plans to distribute this plan by posting it on the district website, placing it in parent resource center, disseminating it during the annual Title I meetings in the Fall, placing it in student handbooks, and placing the plan on the Parent Team in Microsoft Teams.

Communications

The FEC will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone and text messages, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The FEC will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events in order for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as ways parents can monitor their child's progress.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in the Fall for the principal and the FEC to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

Reservation of Funds

If required by law, QCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2022-2023 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. Furthermore, QCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

The district hosted a combined annual Input Meeting/School Improvement Meeting for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Survey results and minutes from these meetings were 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 FEC located at the school.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

State of the District Input Meeting ~ March 2023

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Quitman County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home to all parents and posted in advance of the meeting. The FEC will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

School Improvement Forum/Meeting ~ March 2023

During this week, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the district's parent and family engagement plan as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. The FEC will send invitations home as well as Microsoft Teams invites to notify parents & students about the date and time of the forum/meeting. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the district website.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit [Microsoft Teams/Parenting Team](#) to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



Annual Title I Meeting~ September 2022

At the beginning of the school year, each Title I school will host a meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, all Title I schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students the challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The FEC will annually revise compacts, distribute to all families, and review at parent/teacher conferences.

Building Capacity

The FEC will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, QCSD will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. Although QCSD is not a cohort district of APPT, The Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT) model of family engagement is one such initiative. APTT is a program wherein teachers and families partner to address academic goals through at-home learning activities.

Of Parents – The FEC will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The FEC works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to APTT, the State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The FEC will also offer assistance to parents in understanding use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists or designee. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, and social media postings.

In addition, each student takes his/her iPads home each day. Parents have the opportunity to checkout laptops to take home for 2-week periods. The iPads contain resources and materials such as study guides, practice assessments, and materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools.

The FEC will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The FEC will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. During the spring and summer transition program, schools will host: Kindergarten Ready/Summer transition event, Middle and High School Transition event, and College and Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Of School Staff – The FEC will conduct four trainings during the school year for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be delivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. At this time, the schools are not implementing APTT. If a school is implementing APTT, the QCSD Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) will conduct an APTT training for the entire school staff. The purpose of the FELT is to coordinate the sustainability and growth of APTT in the district. QCSD will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, APTT meetings, 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, the FEC will train school staff on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and APTT meetings. 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, and social media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the FEC will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums/Meetings.

Beginning in March, the FEC will send home a survey and or email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district

website for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, the FEC will also use the School Improvement Forum/Meeting to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The FEC will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plan.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with Student Support Services Personnel to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
February 2023

School Improvement Forum
March 2023

State of the District
March 2023

For Schools

Welcoming Schools Training
August 2022

Principal and FEC Meetings
First Wednesday of every month

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This plan was adopted by the Quitman County School District on May 16, 2022 and will be in effect for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children during fall semester.

