



PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Title I • Family Partnership • Student Success

OUR COMMITMENT TO FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Florence County School District Five seeks the participation, input, and advice of all Title One Parents with respect to the joint development of the LEA plan and the process of school review and improvement. The coordinator of the Title One project provides oversight, technical assistance, and support to assist schools in their role of developing effective parent and family engagement. A focus is to build the schools and parent's capacity for strong involvement. The coordinator will also oversee and integrate parent and family engagement in other programs such as Head Start and First Steps.

The written school Parent and Family Engagement Policy establishes the school's expectation for Parent and Family Engagement and describes how the school will build the school and parent capacity for strong parent and family engagement. This plan includes all federal requirements, was developed with and agreed upon with parents, distributed to parents, and is being implemented.

A Parent/Community Engagement Plan is developed to:

- Support the FSD5 strategic plan
- Increase and improve the level of family involvement in our students' education.
- Ensure that all parents are notified and kept informed
- Address needs identified in our schools

1

Parents are notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.

A copy of the plan is distributed to parents and is available at all times on the school website. Specific portions of the plan are reiterated in the school newsletter, information pamphlets, and student handbook. Translated materials are appropriately distributed as needed.

2

The school's parent involvement policy/plan is made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

Copies of the plan are available on the school website. The plan is updated periodically to reflect school needs based on data from our annual Family and Community Engagement survey results. Copies of the monthly newsletter reflecting specific portions of the plan are sent home with students. Translated materials are distributed as needed.

3

The school has convened an annual meeting to inform parents about the school's parental involvement programs and the rights of parents to be involved.

In an effort to determine the effectiveness of this policy, as to increase parent and family engagement and to overcome the barriers to participation as noted in the law, the coordinator of the Title One project will meet with the School Improvement Council and parents at the Parent Open House. All parents will be invited by sending letters of invitation as well as sending messages to parents' phones and email addresses. Teachers will also be invited. The meeting will be held on a day and time determined to be the most convenient for the majority of parents. Parents who participate in our Title One family night are informed about various parent involvement programs and are also apprised of their right to be involved in their child's education. A detailed explanation of the Title One program and its activities will be presented at the meeting. The school parent compact will be reviewed at the meeting to see if changes are needed. Throughout the year, parents are encouraged to participate in various parent involvement opportunities.

4

The school offers a flexible number of meetings

Because we are a high poverty, CEP district (all students receive free lunch), we continually take measures to accommodate families from diverse backgrounds. Meetings are generally scheduled after school and late afternoon. However, teachers and administrators are available to meet with parents before, during, and after school on an as-needed basis. A translator is available if needed. The staff's availability to parents is a priority throughout the school year. Virtual meetings, phone conferences, and email are also used.

FLORENCE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE

Johnsonville Elementary School

5 Parents, or an adequate representation of parents, are involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in planning, reviewing, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy

A committee meets to review assessment data and our school improvement plan to make decisions that will benefit our overall program. Parents are notified through the school newsletter, website, and additional notes.

6 The school provides parents with timely information about school programs and curriculum.

A student handbook containing general information, school policies, and school calendars is given to each student upon enrollment; Spanish copies are also available. In order to regularly communicate with parents, FSD5 sends a monthly newsletter to inform parents about school and grade-level activities. A monthly calendar and school menu is also available. Both the handbook and monthly newsletter are available on the school website. Grade level student planners are used for home-school communication on a daily basis; DOJO accounts also provide up-to-date information for individual classes. In addition, teachers send home progress reports and report cards/progress reports to inform parents of their child's academic performance.

7 Per parent request, 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.

When a student is experiencing difficulty, teachers conference with parents during regularly scheduled conferences or at a time that is convenient for both parties to discuss how to motivate the child and offer suggestions for remediation/enrichment. The administrator is always available to address concerns and offer suggestions. The teachers and support staff work together with the parents to provide the best educational experience possible.

8 A process is in place for feedback from parents

Parent comments and/or suggestions are always welcome. The administration is available upon request to meet with parents to address concerns. Families can also communicate with staff via email, phone and with text. Parents wishing to meet with teachers or visit classrooms are asked to contact the school at 843-386-2955.

9 Building capacity for involvement – Assistance is provided to parents in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement.

Parents are informed through the school newsletter, social media, parent/teacher conferences, and the website of curriculum changes, assessment dates, etc.

10 Building capacity for involvement – Materials and training are provided to help parents work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental involvement.

Parent involvement activities are held during and after school, including literacy and math nights, grade-level musical programs, programs for grandparents, etc. The media specialist is available during parent/teacher conferences to meet with parents regarding questions and help parents understand reading expectations and incentives for avid readers.

11 Building capacity for involvement – Staff are educated with the assistance of parents in the value and contributions of parents, and in working with parents – how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, build ties between parents and the school.

The staff and grade levels frequently brainstorm suggestions for raising the level of parental involvement. An open-door policy encourages parents to contact the school throughout the year. Conferences are held on a regularly scheduled basis and also on an as needed basis. The school-wide newsletter, school website, student planners, and class newsletters keep parents informed and involved.

12 Building capacity for involvement – Provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities per parent request.

Every effort is made to assist parents. Staff members are always available to help parents in reading forms and completing paperwork. Translators are available when needed and most written material is available in both English and Spanish. An After-School program provides parents with not only a day care option, but also extra homework and study help.

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Accessibility – Local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

All communication and documents (Spanish and English) are presented in formats that are easily understood. A translator is available as needed to facilitate participation and understanding. Translated SPED forms are available as needed. The student handbook and many school announcements are available in Spanish. Two-way communication occurs in a variety of ways including the student planner, phone calls, parent conferences, DOJO, and email.