

Rhea County Department of Education



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District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Rhea County Schools

2026-2027

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Rhea County Schools receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities.

Rhea County Schools agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all schools with Title I, Part A programs. These 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 ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- The school district will be governed by the definition of family engagement contained in Section 8101 of the ESSA. Family engagement includes regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities and ensures that:
 - A. Families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
 - B. Families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
 - C. Families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and advisory committees.
 - D. Other family engagement activities described under Section 1116 of the ESEA are implemented.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Rhea County Schools will take actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112 and the development of support and improvement plans under Section 1111(d) of the ESEA.

Rhea County Schools will annually invite and encourage parents/families to participate in the development of the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the District Improvement Plan.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Rhea County Schools will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, ad philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

Rhea County Schools will readily provide support and technical assistance to all Title I Schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices, including:

- School Parent and Family Engagement policies/plans
- School-Parent Compacts
- Title I parent and family engagement requirements

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Rhea County Schools will conduct, with meaningful 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 its Title I, Part A schools.

The evaluation will include:

- Identifying barriers to greater participation by families in family engagement activities.
- Giving particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged.
- Families with disabilities.
- Families with limited English proficiency.
- Families with limited literacy.
- Families of any racial or ethnic minority background.
- Identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children.
- Identifying strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

- Using the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.
- Revising the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, if necessary.

Rhea County Schools and the Parent and Family Engagement Committee will complete an annual evaluation. The district committee will consist of district and school personnel, parents/family members and community members.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Rhea County Schools will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I Schools in decisions regarding the 1 percent of Title I Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement. The committee will ensure that no less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title 1 Schools.

Title I School, Parent and Family Engagement Committee will meet and decide activities for the upcoming year.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Rhea County Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs. Including Voluntary Pre-K, Head Start, and TCAT and other organizations will encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Rhea County Schools will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families such as public preschool programs or organizations to help students transition to elementary, middle, high and postsecondary schools, or careers. These key stakeholders will be invited to participate in the district annual Parent and Family Engagement meetings.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS

Rhea County Schools, with the assistance of Title I schools, will build capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials, training, and strategies regarding topics such as literacy and technology so that families can participate in their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- 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.