



SMITH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
Family and Community Engagement Plan
2026-2027

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Smith County School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written family and community engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the District's expectations and objectives for meaningful family and community engagement. It describes how the District will implement specific family and community engagement activities and is incorporated into the District's plan submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education.

The Smith County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level family and community engagement plans meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA. A component of the plan will include a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A family and community engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The plan will include 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 parents understand.
- If the LEA policy for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents 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 be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures per this definition in Section 8101(39) of the ESSA:

The term “parental involvement” means the participation of parents 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 at school;*
- (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; and*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116.*

THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Smith County School District** will take the following 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 paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA.

- *Parent surveys are conducted each spring*
- *During scheduled planning meetings, parents and community members will review and have input on the district family and community engagement policy and the district’s comprehensive federal programs application.*
- *The district will post the Parent Involvement Plan on its website for public review and comment.*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Smith County School District** will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools to plan and implement effective family and community involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This support may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

- *Annual Open House and Annual Title I Meeting*
- *Monthly administrative meetings*
- *Professional development opportunities*
- *PTO meetings*
- *Federal Programs assistance in developing and monitoring school plans*
- *District oversight and leadership*
- *Identify and publicize promising programs and practices related to parental involvement*

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Smith County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family and community engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with their children's learning, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation of its family and community engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, its family and community engagement policies.

- *The federal programs director will release the survey each spring. Parents, family, and the community will have the opportunity to provide input on school functions and evaluate the implementation of programs.*
- *The superintendent, federal programs director, administrators, and teachers, along with parents, family members, and community members, will be responsible for evaluating the policy and programs on an annual basis as part of the Title I planning process.*
- *Parents, family members, and community members will provide feedback on the content and effectiveness of the parental and family engagement policy and school plans through participation in surveys and Open House/ Annual Title I Meetings. The school administration and federal programs director will be responsible for these activities.*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Smith County School District** will involve the parents and family 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 family and community engagement is spent.

The school district will provide parents and family members opportunities for input on how to spend the 1% parent involvement funds through the annual spring survey, during the annual Title I parent meeting at schools, and meetings throughout the school year.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Smith County School District** will coordinate and integrate family and community engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: such as Head Start, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- *The district supports each school's parent committees.*
- *The district will work with Head Start and daycares to provide support and resources to parents in aiding them in participating more fully in the education of their children.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Smith County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials/ programs to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents 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.

In addition, the District will support the schools in parental involvement activities with financial and personnel resources to meet the programming identified in the school Family and Community Engagement Plans. Assistance will be provided in areas such as the following:

- *resource materials;*
- *parent night activities;*
- *parent/teacher conference;*
- *college and career fairs; and*
- *orientation activities.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Smith County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on the value and utility of contributions of parents and on how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

- *sharing relevant resource information faculty and staff as collected;*
- *encouraging weekly focused faculty meetings; and*
- *providing information to parents from the district and school in a format to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.*

NOTIFICATION & ACCESSIBILITY

The FACE policy will be:

- Shared annually with parents of all Title I students in an understandable and uniform format.
- Provided, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- Made available to the local community via the district website, printed copies at schools, and upon request.