

# *Rhea County Department of Education*



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## **District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Rhea County Schools 2023-2024 (November 29, 2023)**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Rhea County Schools 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 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 following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:  
Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
  - (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 on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
  - (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

Rhea County Schools 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.

Rhea County School will invite and encourage parents/families to participate in the development of the district parent and family engagement policy and the district improvement plan annually.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

Rhea County Schools will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build 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, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and 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 its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices inclusive of school parent and family engagement policies/plans, school-parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements.

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

Rhea County Schools 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 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 activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, 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 about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Rhea County Schools will complete an annual with the Parent and Family Engagement committee completing this 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, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

School Parent and Family Engagement committees 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: Voluntary Pre-K and Head Start that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

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 will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help families work with their children to improve 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.

Rhea County Schools will facilitate workshops, classes, online resources, meetings, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support families in helping their student's academic success.