

**Policy LAA: Title I Parental Engagement**

**Status:** ADOPTED

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**TITLE I PARENT ENGAGEMENT**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Itawamba 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 parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's or district's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement several specific parental and family engagement activities.

**Itawamba County School District** understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and 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

**Itawamba County School District** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

**A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Itawamba County School District** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the school wide plan, and the school-parent compact.

*ICSD will hold an Annual Title I Meeting for all parents across the district in semester 1 of each school year annually. Due to "social distancing" protocols, if necessary, the meeting will be recorded and shared via social media platforms.*

**B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

**Itawamba County School District** will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening.

**C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**Itawamba County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

*ICSD will present the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to families at the Annual Title I Meeting for suggestions and approval. Family members will be invited and encouraged to serve on district level committees, as well as, committees at the school level. ICSD will also post the district/school Parent and Family Engagement Policies on the district website and, to the extent practical, elicit feedback on these policies.*

**D. COMMUNICATION**

**Itawamba County School District** will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and

participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

*Schools will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policies at the school level, as well as, post the approved policy on their website. The district will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents at each district meeting and will also post the policy on the district's website once the Itawamba County School Board has approved said policy. Schools will use student planners, student folders, newsletters, Facebook pages, SchoolStatus Broadcast Messaging, conferences, parent meetings, workshops, AIM (automated phone system), CANVAS, and the district web site to keep parents informed of information related to school and parent programs, students' expected proficiency levels, meetings, and other activities. The district will use meetings, workshops, Facebook, School Messenger and the district website to keep parents informed. To the extent practical, this information will be provided in a language that parents can understand and free from educational jargon.*

#### E. DISSENSION PROCESS

**Itawamba County School District** will submit any comments/concerns to the Itawamba County School District Superintendent's office if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

*Any comments/concerns can be sent to the Director of Federal Programs or by phone to 662-862-2159.*

#### F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

**Itawamba County School District** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

*Schools accepting Title I A funds will convene an Annual Title I Schoolwide meeting annually within the months of August, September, and October to jointly develop with parents and faculty a school-parent compact. Upon parent approval, the schools will distribute to all parents this document. Administrators, teachers and parents will use this document in ongoing, two-way conversations about student achievement and behavior. In the Spring of each year the schools will review this document and revise as necessary for the coming year. Using this method of updating the compact, schools will elicit feedback from students, faculty and families in the Spring and Fall of each year.*

#### G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

**Itawamba County School District** will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as : (1) the State's academic content standards, (2) the State's student academic achievement standards, (3) the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments, (4) the requirement of Title I, Part A (5) how to monitor their child's progress; and (6) how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the contributions of parents, and in 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 the school
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State and local programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource at schools, that encourage and support parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

*The following Parent and Family Engagement Meetings are currently planned:*

- *Districtwide Title I Meeting - details about Title I services, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the school compacts and the district's Comprehensive Federal Programs plan will be discussed and attendees will be asked to provide feedback.*
- *LBPA information regarding Kindergarten and 3rd grade requirements.*

- *Student Assessment - the Director of Curriculum will be asked to present information for parents about the state and district's assessment program for students.*
- *Virtual Kindergarten Registration in the Spring to coordinate with local Headstarts and Daycares for widespread dissemination of information.*
- *District Resources - a list of district resources appears on the district's website at [www.itawambacountyschools.com](http://www.itawambacountyschools.com) under the tab "For Parents" as well as a dedicated website for Virtua Learning, Canvas*
- *ICSD also maintains social media pagers to highlight events in the school district.*

#### H. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

**Itawamba County School District** in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

*Parent meetings will be offered at flexible times throughout the school year. All announcements, to the extent practical, will be available through the district website and Facebook pages in a language that can be understood by parents. Progress reports, Report Cards, state assessment results and other information regarding student achievement will be sent to parents in a timely manner. ICSD will also maintain a district data site for parents to access student grades at any time. All schools, as well as, the district office maintain normal business hours and welcome feedback in the form of personal visits, conferences, emails and phone calls. Please note, appointments are preferred so that parents may be offered our full attention. In addition to ICSD Title I Parent Meetings, we will also hold parent meetings for parents of students that are also in the English Learner Program. Due to "Social Distancing" meetings may be recorded or held virtually if local health policies advise. .*

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