

NOTE: In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district-wide parent and family engagement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Sterling CUSD 5 agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116 of the ESEA, 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 ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 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 opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members, including parents and family members who have 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 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan 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 involve the parents 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 one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of "parent and family engagement," and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and family engagement 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 of the ESEA.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICTS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Sterling CUSD 5 will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- Provide all parents with access to a copy of the school district/LEA Parent Involvement Policy each year on the district website
- Invite PTOs to fill out a survey to gather any additional input on the parent involvement policy

2. Sterling CUSD 5 will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112 of the ESEA, and support and improvement plans under section 1111(d)(1)-(2) of the ESEA:

- Provide opportunities for parent feedback through annual surveys aligned to Illinois 5Essentials or local engagement surveys.
- Share improvement priorities during Board of Education meetings and invite public comment
- Provide updates on improvement plans through district newsletters and school websites

3. Sterling CUSD 5 will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Provide professional development for staff on effective parent engagement practices
- Assist schools in organizing math and reading nights for families
- Provide translation services when needed
- Provide communication tools to support parent outreach efforts
- Discussion to include assessment data and results along with effective teaching practices, tools, and resources to increase student achievement

4. Sterling CUSD 5 will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with parent and family engagement strategies of the following other relevant Federal, State, and local programs: Preschool for All, McKinney-Vento Homeless Education services, and Career and Technical Education.

- Invite Parents to participate in the Parent-Teacher Conferences held twice a year
- Invite Parents to participate in parent nights specific to reading, math, open house, back-to-school nights, etc.
- Conduct meetings involving parents to discuss the development and assessment needs of individual students

5. Sterling CUSD 5 will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, 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 parents in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background); 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 and activities to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parent and family engagement policies.

- Parent survey given called 5Essentials
- Findings from survey will be used to drive activities designed to effectively engage parents and families

6. Sterling CUSD 5 will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's 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
- How to work with educators
- Personnel will attend local and state conferences to stay current with changing trends and assessments
- Dissemination of testing results
- Information to parents on how to access and use Skyward Family Access to monitor student progress
- Benchmarking assessment results shared with parents
- Parent-teacher conferences

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement, by:

- Hosting parent involvement programs such as family reading nights
- Sending information home regarding the science of reading and how parents can assist weekly with phonics instruction at home
- Training posted for parents on how to access Skyward Family Access student information system from the district website

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

- New Teacher Orientation
- Teacher Mentoring Program
- School Faculty Meetings
- PLC meetings

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant Federal, State, and local programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Sending information to parents when available such as programs the ROE offers
- Collaborating with local libraries and sending out library information
- Working with community agencies to provide food and other resources
- Providing after school care programs through partnership with YMCA
- Working in partnership with the health department to provide information regarding physical exams

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is 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:

- Report Cards
- District Website
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Progress Reports
- Skyward Family Access
- Assessment Results (local benchmarking and State Assessment results)
- School Newsletters

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS i

- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences

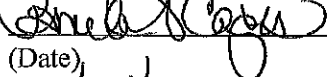
between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school.

- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.]

PART IV. ADOPTION

This policy was adopted by Sterling CUSD 5 on mm/dd/yy and will be in effect. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before the first day of student attendance each year.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

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(Date)

6/04/06_____