

Richland Parish School Parent and Family Engagement Policy ***School Year 2024-2025***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, The Richland Parish School District receives Title I, Part A funds and 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(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the district.

The Richland Parish School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- 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 targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, 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 parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and 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:

1. Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning,
2. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school,
3. 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
4. Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.

- **Jointly Developed**

The Richland Parish School District will take the following actions to involve parents and families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

The district and school policies, and the School Improvement Plans are reviewed each school year and revised annually. Sources used in the development of these policies and plans include individual school meetings, annual parent survey results, parent meetings, and parent-teacher conferences. This policy and all school policies are posted on our system and school websites where they are available for parent comments and suggestions. This policy is a working document subject to review and revision.

- **Annual Title I Meeting**

The Richland Parish School District will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents and families 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 parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Parents are surveyed annually to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent and family engagement programs. Parents are given the option to complete the survey via paper copy or electronically. The results of these surveys are used to develop strategies for school improvement and to revise the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies. These results are also used in planning future parent meetings. Areas evaluated include academics and school leadership, parent involvement, Title I, school environment, and the school Parent and Family Engagement Program. Surveys are written in a language that parents and families understand.

- **Communications**

The Richland Parish School District will take the following actions to provide parents and families of participating children the following:

1. Timely information about the Title I programs,
2. Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement, and
3. 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.

The Richland Parish School District will make the District Family Engagement Policy available to all parents by publishing the policy in all student handbooks and on the district website. All student handbooks are written in a language that parents and families understand.

- **Reservation of Funds (only applicable to districts with Title I allocations of \$500,000 or more)**

The Richland Parish School District will take the following actions to involve the parents and families 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 by:

Each Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator offers each parent the opportunity to give feedback on the 1% reservation of funds by surveying parents on the use of funds. During the Annual Title I meeting, the school will share the budget for parent and family engagement activities.

- **Coordination of Services**

The Richland Parish School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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:

- *Richland Parish Schools will coordinate with Delta Head Start and Pre-Kindergartens to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students from these programs to Richland Parish Primary Schools by working collaboratively with these agencies.*
- *Richland Parish elementary schools will coordinate with Richland Parish middle schools to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students by working collaboratively as students move from one instructional level to the next.*
- *Richland Parish middle schools will coordinate with Richland Parish high schools to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students by working collaboratively as students move from one instructional level to the next.*
- *Richland Parish high schools will coordinate with local universities, community college, and vocational programs to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students by working collaboratively as students move from one instructional level to the next.*
- *Richland Parish will coordinate with members of the Rich Network, The Children's Coalition, etc. to participate in district-wide parent and family events.*

- **Building Capacity of Parents**

The Richland Parish School District will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

1. Provide parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards;
2. Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement; and
3. Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging State's 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 to improve the achievement of their child.

Richland Parish Schools will provide tips and ideas to parents on helping their children with core content subject areas. Parents are given the opportunity to check out a wide variety of resource materials from the Parent Resource Centers to use at home with their children. In addition, parents will receive newsletters, progress reports, the opportunity to schedule parent/teacher conferences, phone calls, and parent communication flyers. Parents will also be encouraged to serve as PAC members and SIP team members.

- **Building Capacity of School Staff**

The Richland Parish School District will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of 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 by:

- *On-going professional development for faculty and staff*
- *Individualized coaching*
- *Parents/families/school staff serving together on school and district committees*

ADOPTION

The Richland Parish Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by this document and the district meeting sign-in sheet. This policy was adopted by the Richland Parish School District on July 30, 2024 and will be in effect for the period of the 2024-2025 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 23, 2024 by publishing it in all student handbooks and placing it on the school district website.