

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2026-2027

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy
East Tallahatchie School District

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **East Tallahatchie 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.

East Tallahatchie 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

East Tallahatchie School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

East Tallahatchie 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 engagement policy, the school-wide plan, and the school-parent compact.

B. **FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

East Tallahatchie 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**

East Tallahatchie School District will take the following actions to engage 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 school-wide program plan.

ETSD will present the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to families at the Annual Title I Meetings 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. ETSD 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. ETSD will identify barriers to greater participation of families in an effort to increase parental engagement.

D. COMMUNICATION

East Tallahatchie 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, by posting the approved policy on their website. The district will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents at annual district meetings and/or will post the policy on the district's website once the East Tallahatchie School Board approves the policy. Schools will use student planners, student folders, phone calls, conferences, parent meetings, workshops, social media, text apps (such as School Status) 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 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. DISSEMINATION PROCESS

East Tallahatchie School District will submit any comments/concerns to the East Tallahatchie School District Superintendent's office if the school-wide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

Any comments/concerns can be sent to the Superintendent or by phone at 662-647-5524. Parents may contact school administration to submit comments/concerns at the school level.

F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

East Tallahatchie 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 School-wide meeting annually within the months of August and September to jointly develop with parents and faculty a school-parent compact. Upon parent approval, the schools will distribute 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

East Tallahatchie 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 child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology to foster parental engagement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
    - the State's academic content standards,
    - the State's student academic achievement 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 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, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents to fully participate in the education of their children.

For the 2023-2024 school year the following Parent and Family Engagement Meetings are currently planned (if there are COVID-19 concerns and social distancing compliance, some meetings could be virtual):

- 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.
- Open House – details about new school year, including class schedules, teacher information or new school policies
- Annual Title I School Meetings at school sites
- Parent Teacher Conferences – at the school level, schools will hold, at minimum, one Parent-Teacher Conference night for teachers and parents to discuss students' progress
- Each school should also maintain a parent workshop focused on helping parents assist students in one of the following areas:
    - Math curriculum, Literacy/Reading assistance, State Testing requirements, Homework help

H. ACCESSIBILITY

East Tallahatchie 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/school website, telephone messaging system and other electronic messaging systems 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. ETSSD 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.

I. GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE

If for any reason parents are not satisfied with the parent and family engagement policies or procedures at their school site, they may address their grievances to the school site principal. If the school site principal is unable to resolve the issue for the parent, then the parent may contact the following individual at the ETSD's Central Office: Superintendent. If the issue is still unresolved, parents may contact the ETSD Board of Trustees (School Board) in writing to be placed on the next regular School Board meeting agenda to discuss and resolve the conflict.

East Tallahatchie School Board Approval Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

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Bryant Watson, ETSD Board President

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Raymond Russell, Superintendent