

Title I Family Engagement Plan

Lafourche Parish Public Schools

2026 - 2027 Family Engagement Plan

Statement of Philosophy

The philosophy of the Lafourche Parish Public School System is based on the underlying belief that a child's education is vitally affected by the quality and character of the relationship between home and school. The school system recognizes that parents are their children's first teachers and valuable partners in educating children. The school system is eager to combine the educational forces of home, school, and community to improve educational opportunities for all children.

DEVELOPMENT AND REVIEW OF DISTRICT ENGAGEMENT POLICY Section 1116 (c)

The Lafourche Parish Public School System has developed this family engagement policy with the collaboration and input from parents of participating children. This policy serves as the basis for family engagement and is an integral part of the consolidated application for federal programs. Each school year a meeting of a district parental advisory committee will be convened to review and update this policy. Members of this advisory committee will consist of representation of parents of students from the four subgroups (special education, ethnicity, poverty and LEP) identified in the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 and participants in various programs conducted in this district.

Each school in the district will develop its own family engagement plan with input from parents of participating students. District level personnel will provide technical assistance and support to schools in the development and implementation of individual school family engagement plans.

PARENTS RIGHT TO KNOW Section 1112 (e)

The Lafourche Parish Public School System will provide parents with the following:

- **TEACHER QUALIFICATIONS:**

Parents will be notified at the beginning of each school year that they have the right to request information regarding their child's teacher's qualification and certifications. The Director of Human Resources will make this notification to parents through the Lafourche Parish School System's Parent-Student Handbook, which is published and distributed at the beginning of each school year and to new students and parents enrolling after the start of the school year. The Director of Human Resources will notify parents or guardians of their child's teacher's qualifications and certification upon receipt of a written request by the parent or guardian.

- **NON-CERTIFIED TEACHERS:**

Parents of students who are being taught by a non-certified teacher for a period of four consecutive weeks will be notified of that fact in writing through a letter sent by the school principal after conferring with the Director of Human Resources.

- **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT LEVEL:**

State assessment scores for individual students will be forwarded to parents or guardians either via student or mail once results are received from the Louisiana State Department of Education.

PARENT NOTIFICATION: LEP STUDENTS Section 1112(e) (3) (A)

Upon registering in the Lafourche Parish Public School System, all students whose parents have indicated on the Home Language Survey that a language other than English is spoken in the home will be assessed by LEP teachers using the English Language Proficiency Screener (ELPS) for initial EL screening, followed by the English Language Proficiency Test (ELPT).

1. Based on assessment results, parents will be informed in a manner in which they can understand their child's eligibility in a language instructional educational program. The methods of informing parents may include a written letter in the parent's native language, a phone conversation through an interpreter, or a home visit. This information will include:
 - o Student's assessment information;
 - o Status of academic achievement;
 - o Methods of instruction to be used in the program;
 - o How the program will help the child learn English;
 - o How the program will meet academic achievement;
 - o Standards for a grade promotion and graduation;
 - o Specific exit requirements from the program;
 - o Expected rate of graduation from LEP high school students; and
 - o Parent's right to decline such language services.
2. At the completion of each school year, parents of LEP students will be notified in one of the methods previously noted of their child's progress in the language educational program.
3. Take-home activities will be provided to parents of LEP students as a means of assisting parents in working with their child to attain English proficiency and meet challenging state academic standards.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS: Section 1116(a)(3)

As directed by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, the Lafourche Parish Public School System's Title I budget has set aside in excess of its one percent allocation for the express purpose of providing parental engagement activities which promote family literacy and parenting skills in the parish's Title I schools. The district maintains financial records of expenditures of parental engagement in both the Title I schools and at the district level. This is carried out by means of budget allocations, requisitions, and justifications.

SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN: Section 1116(b)

Each school in the district will develop its own parent and family engagement plan with input from parents and families of participating students. The parent and family engagement plan will apply to parents and families of students identified in the subgroups listed in the ESSA Plan. Technical assistance and support will be provided by district level personnel to schools in the planning, implementation and evaluation of their plan.

DISTRICT LEVEL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO SCHOOLS:

1. At the District Level, quarterly meetings will be conducted with the Title I Family Engagement School Contact Personnel. The Title I Family Engagement School Level Contact Person will then redeliver strategies to teachers and parents for improving parent and family engagement at the school, as well as, to assist parents with supporting students at home with

reading and math skills. Suggestions and tips for assisting with homework, school projects and test-taking strategies are also provided to parents.

2. Annual Needs Assessment Surveys are conducted to get the overall opinion on the school's environment and its academic performance. This information is reviewed at the District and School Level to adjust and revise family engagement activities for the following school year.
3. The ESSA Executive Coordinator meets with the PFE school contacts 4 times a year to develop yearlong activities based upon needs identified through the analysis of LEAP data.
4. The Home & School Connection, the Reading Connection, Early Years, and Helping Children Learn Newsletters are sent to all Title I schools to be distributed to all Title I Parents in either an English or Spanish version.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY: Section 1116(c)

Parents serving on the School Improvement Team provide input on Family Engagement plan and activities to be implemented at each school. Schools will provide agendas, sign-in sheets and a short summary of the meeting to the LEA to ensure parents are involved in the process.

Each school's parent family engagement will be presented at an Open House or Parent Information Night. At various times throughout the school year, parents and community members will be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the school's family engagement plan. Assistance will be provided to parents requiring transportation, childcare, and interpreters and any other identified needs.

Annually, the school improvement committee through a review and update of the plan will address any concerns and dissatisfactions expressed by parents or community members in regard to the school's family engagement plan.

HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT Section 1116(d)

STUDENT/PARENT/TEACHER COMPACT:

1. A student/parent/teacher compact is developed at each Title I school. At the beginning of each school year, the compact is signed by all stakeholders in order to build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards.
2. The compact describes the school's responsibility to provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment. It also describes the way in which parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning and ways parents may volunteer and participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
3. Issues of open communication between parents and teachers are also addressed in the compact.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR ENGAGEMENT: Section 1116(e)

PARENTAL TRAINING:

1. As previously indicated, each school conducts an annual orientation meeting (Open House) and periodic meetings during the year to inform parents of the State's achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, and instructional programs provided in the district's schools.
2. Each Title I school will conduct quarterly Family Engagement workshops to provide parents with material and information on various topics such as: parenting skills, homework assistance, test taking strategies, discipline suggestions, improving academic performance, etc. These trainings will be conducted by the Title I Family Engagement School Contact Person at each individual school site.

TEACHER TRAINING:

The Lafourche Parish School System conducts a New Teacher Induction for all new hires in the system at all grade levels. In the course of these sessions the topic of family engagement is addressed through a component entitled “Strategies for Family Engagement”. Family Engagement is further addressed with new hires through Mentoring Programs for new teachers.

In addition, school administrators and guidance counselors address issues such as making parents feel welcome, conducting parent-teacher conferences, and strategies for parent participation in classroom activities at the start of each school year and throughout the year. A packet of this information is supplied to teachers and school staff. Copies of agendas and sign-in sheets of school personnel in attendance will be forwarded to the school district office as evidence of participation. Parent survey questions ensure effectiveness.

COLLABORATION EFFORTS:

The Lafourche Parish Public School System collaborates with principals, teachers, parents, and students in providing family engagement activities that encourage and support parents in full participation of the education of their children. In their efforts, schools provide quarterly family engagement activities for parents.

The ESSA Executive Coordinator collaborates throughout the year in regards to services and academic performance of students.

Lafourche Early Childhood Network, which consists of Lafourche Parish Private Daycares, Head Start, and Lafourche Public Schools meets monthly to collaborate and make decisions based on developmentally appropriate practices to ensure all students are Kindergarten ready.

PARENT COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications to all parents related to school and parents programs, meetings, and other activities will be in one or more of the following forms and in the parent’s native language, when practical:

- Calendars/Newsletters
- Flyers
- School Status
- Newspaper articles and announcements/television announcements
- Conferences
- School Website/Facebook
- District website posting
- District Parent/Student Handbook
- Google Classroom
- OnCourse

ACCESSIBILITY Section 1116(f)

The Lafourche Parish Public School System provides opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports. Reports are provided in various languages and interpreters are provided to communicate with parents when needed.