



School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Westhills Elementary School

2023-2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Westhills Elementary School** 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 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 local educational agency (LEA).

Westhills Elementary School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, 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 improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families 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 families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families 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 families understand.

- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family 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 families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - (C) 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; and
 - (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Westhills Elementary School will take the following actions to involve 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 families, 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.

Meetings will take place throughout the school year (parent meetings, family nights, Title I meetings, etc.) that will involve parent participation and input. Meetings will be communicated at the school level so participation is high. These meetings will include once a year review of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Westhills Elementary School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

In the Spring, Westhills Elementary School will hold a Title I Meeting to inform parents and stakeholders of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the families' rights to be involved. The annual Title I meeting will not be used to ask for family input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Westhills Elementary School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be shared at orientation, parent nights, and family engagement activities. Parents will have access to the Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy in multiple formats such as, Remind, Title I Newsletters, the schools and district websites.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Westhills Elementary School will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Westhills Elementary School will jointly develop, with parents on orientation night, a School-Parent Compact that will establish a method for the school and parents to communicate state testing, goal setting, and overall academic performance. The School-Parent compact is a written agreement between the school and the parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs that identifies the activities that the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will undertake to share the responsibility for improving student academic achievement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Westhills Elementary School** will take the following actions to involve the 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:

Westhills Elementary School will communicate Title I family and parent engagement funds during family and parent engagement meetings to receive input on how families would like for funds to be allocated. These meetings, at the school, will be held during school activity events so parents can provide input. An example of such a meeting would include orientation.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Westhills Elementary School 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 families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Westhills Elementary School will coordinate with services and programs such as local emergency management services, Hopetown, STARS program, etc. to encourage parent and community relationships with the school.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Westhills Elementary School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

~~Westhills Elementary School will use orientation night, family engagement opportunities, faculty meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and online newsletters to build ties with families. It is important for families to have their support for valuable input.~~

Westhills Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

~~Westhills Elementary School will invite parents to volunteer for school activities such as book nights, during school activities, festivals, etc.~~