

Cranston Public Schools recognizes and supports the engagement of parents in their children's education. Over forty years of research has proven that parent engagement is linked to school success (Henderson & Mapp, 2002). Families, regardless of differences in cultural, economic and educational backgrounds, who are involved in their children's education have a positive effect on their children's learning (Sui-Chu & Willms, 1996). Cranston Public Schools uses Title I monies to fund the Cranston Title I Family Center. The Family Center builds relationships with and provides respectful practice and responsive programming for Title I students and their families. To increase parent engagement in Title I schools, Cranston Public Schools has committed to following the requirements found in Title I, Part A, Section 118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act by implementing the following:

- Engaging parents in Title I program planning, implementation and review
- Conducting Annual Parent Surveys
- Supporting schools in meeting Title I requirements
- Supporting parents and families to become actively involved in their children's education
- Providing opportunities for family engagement at school

**Goal 1:** *Engage families in Title I program planning, implementation and review*  
(ESSA, Title 1 Part A, Section 1112)

*Strategies:*

1. The Cranston Title I Family Center will recruit parents from each Title I school annually to participate on a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) whose purpose is to develop, review and recommend changes to parent engagement policies, school improvement plans and home-school compacts.
2. The results of the PACs deliberations will be reported by Family Center staff to each Title I school principal and to the District Title I Parent engagement co-coordinators.
3. The District Parent Engagement Policy, school parent engagement survey and Home-School Compact are distributed to all Title I families at the start of the school. Families sign a record verifying their receipt of the three documents.

**Goal 2:** *Conduct annual parent surveys*  
(ESSA, Title 1 Part A, Section 116 (a)(1) (D))

*Strategies:*

1. The Family Center will develop and distribute an annual Title I survey to each family to measure the effectiveness of parent engagement. Surveys will be distributed during the school year.
2. Survey results will be used to design programs and services at the school level and district wide.
3. The Family Center will develop additional evaluation instruments as needed during a school year to measure the effectiveness of specific programs and services.

**Goal 3:** *Support individual schools in meeting Title I requirements*  
(ESSA, Title 1 Part A, Section 111(d) (1) and (2))

1. The District Title I Family Center assigns one staff member to each Title I school to act as a family engagement liaison. Each liaison works with a school to support school sponsored family events, to outreach to all families including those who are English Language Learners (ELL), have children with special needs or are homeless and to facilitate the school level Parent Involvement Committee.
2. The Family Center assists each school with survey distribution, tabulation and findings.
3. Family Center staff provides technical assistance to Parent-Teacher groups by attending regular meetings of the group and offering workshops for Parent Group leaders.

*\*The terms parent and family are used to represent the legal guardians of children referred to in this document.*

4. The Family Center develops and distributes Family Surveys during the school year for parents to complete and inform teachers about their child's learning style and interests.

***Goal 4: Supporting parents and families to become actively involved in their children's education***

1. To build capacity for parent engagement and to increase the participation of parents in their children's education, the Cranston Title I Family Center has developed a four tiered system of family engagement designed to encourage and support parents in their promotion of student academic success. The four tiers are: Family Support, Family Engagement, Family Partnership and Family Leadership.
2. Families receive information and referral services from the Family Center to help them to meet basic needs assisting them to improve some of the conditions that inhibit involvement.
3. Families are welcomed and invited into the schools and the Family Center regularly throughout the year to workshops, trainings and family events. Professor Hoover-Dempsey of Vanderbilt University (1997) links invitations and warm welcomes to increased family engagement in her research on parent involvement.
4. Families receive information to support their role as partners with the school in the education of their children. School Report Night is held at each Title I school every spring informing parents of the school's PARCC results. Parents receive information to help them support teaching and learning information on the Common Core Standards and their child's report card. The Family Center also distributes books at all programs to build home libraries for students. The Family Center collaborates with many community agencies to strengthen family engagement including RIPIN to provide parents with trainings to improve their parenting skills, the Cranston Public Library to model family literacy.
5. Family Center staff outreaches to incoming kindergarten students and their families at Kindergarten registration at each Title I elementary school, during kindergarten orientation programs.
6. The Family Center partners with Johnson & Wales University to offer leadership training to parents. This level of involvement is designed to help parents develop a sense of their own efficacy and their ability to impact positively on their children's educational outcomes.
7. Communication with families is frequent and whenever necessary in language parents can understand. Bilingual school staff translates documents and provide translation services for families requiring the assistance.

***Goal 5: Providing Opportunities for Family Engagement in School:***

1. Parents are included on school improvement teams, parent advisory committees (PAC) and the Family Center Advisory Board. Parents can also represent their schools on the district wide Educational, ELL and/or Special Education Advisory Boards, PTO/PTG and CEAB Boards.
2. Parents can register to volunteer at school in accordance with Cranston Public Schools Volunteer Policy.
3. The Cranston Family Center provides parents with opportunities to gain skills and confidence in their ability to positively impact successful school outcomes for their children through a variety of training and educational offerings that may include, but would not be limited to Leadership training, Family Literacy development and family experiences.

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