

Fort Madison Community School District Title I Program

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Parents and family members of Fort Madison Community Schools children participating in Title I programs will have the opportunity to be involved in the development of the district plan and in the district's review process. Recognizing that parental involvement is the key to academic achievement, we seek to involve parents in an effective home-school partnership that will provide the best possible education for our students.

The district encourages parent involvement and supports this partnership by providing information about standards and assessments; providing training and materials for parents to help their children; educating school personnel about involving parents and the value of parent contributions; and developing roles for community organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools.

1. This policy is shared with parents and family members of participating Title I children in grades four and five at parent-teacher conferences in the fall. In school-wide buildings (Lincoln and Richardson), this will be shared with all parents at fall conferences.
2. The district will provide technical assistance and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance through professional development regarding parent and family engagement. The district will partner with community groups as a means to engage families more creatively and successfully.
3. The district will find ways to work cooperatively with other Federal, state, and local programs. The Title I program will work with local public preschool programs, Headstart programs, local library programs, and special education programs (IDEA). Our homeless education program coordinates with the local backpack program to offer support to students that are food insecure, especially over the weekends.
4. Through the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC), the district conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. In addition to surveys, the district uses open discussion groups for this evaluation. Parents and families have a voice. The evaluation methods identify the type and frequency of school-home interactions and the needs that parents and families have in order to better support and assist their children in learning. The evaluations will target at least three key areas: barriers, ability to assist learning, and successful interactions.
5. The district uses the findings from the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. The evaluation results

will help uncover best practices that are working and adapt those ideas to the district and individual school needs.

6. Through the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC), the district involves parents and family members in revising and reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
7. At least once annually through parent-teacher conferences, parents and family members of the school's participating in the Title I program are provided information to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved. Notification will also be sent in the district and building newsletters annually.
8. Parent and family meetings, including parent conferences, will be held at different times during the day and Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
9. The School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC) will involve parents in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program through parents input and feedback.
10. In our schoolwide program plans, parents are asked to be involved in the joint development of the building's plan through participation in the School Improvement Advisory Committee (SIAC), surveys and electric feedback as appropriate.
11. Parents and family members of participating children are given assistance in understanding the Title I program, with timely information about the Title I program. Through information shared at parent-teacher conferences, the school will provide parents and family members of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
12. Parents and family members receive an explanation of the school's performance profile, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the expected proficiency levels in the annual progress report distributed to all stakeholders in the spring of the year, through individual reports given to parents at conference time, and through report cards.
13. If requested by parents, the school will provide opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
14. If the schoolwide plan is not satisfactory, parents of participating students may comment. Comments may be made in writing to the school principal. (ESSA Section 1116(c)(5))

15. A jointly developed [school/parent compact](#) outlines how parents and family members, the entire school staff, and students all share responsibility for improved student achievement. It is distributed at parent-teacher conferences in the fall and reviewed annually by SIAC (ESSA Section 1116(d))
16. Parents will be notified of this policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. (ESSA Section 1116(b)(1))
17. In order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency will:
 - a. Provide assistance to parents in understanding challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
 - b. Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
 - c. 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;
 - d. Coordinate and integrate parent 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 in more fully participating in the education of their children;
 - e. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; and
 - f. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request. (ESSA Section 1116(e)(1-14))
18. To the extent possible, the school will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children) by providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 in a format and language the parties can understand. (ESSA Section 1116(f))