

THOMAS E. KERNS ELEMENTARY AND DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY (2026-2027)

Below is an overview of the **District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy** for Title I schools. This policy outlines how the district and each Title I school develop, agree upon, and distribute their engagement policies with parents/guardians. For further information, contact the Title I Office of Greenville County Schools at 864-355-3356.

Policy Development and Review Process:

- **Committees:** Each school forms a parent and staff committee annually to develop or revise its Parent and Family Engagement Policy. All parents can participate or provide input.
- **Draft:** A draft of the policy is distributed in the spring of each school year for parental review and feedback.
- **Feedback and Finalization:** All comments and feedback are documented and available for public review. After incorporating feedback, the final policy is distributed to all parents by October 31 of the following year.
- **Title I Meeting:** The policy is reviewed in a public meeting each fall, with attendance sheets, agendas, and minutes available for all related meetings.

Core Elements for 2026-2027

Parental Involvement in Planning:

- Assist families in understanding academic standards, assessments, and monitoring their child's progress.
- Provide opportunities for families to participate in planning and review processes.

Support for Schools:

- Provide materials and training for families to support academic achievement.
- Train school staff to strengthen family engagement efforts.
- Inform families about Title I programs, services, and their rights.

Capacity Building:

- Help families understand academic standards and assessments.
- Train educators on effective parent engagement.
- Coordinate engagement activities with preschool and literacy programs.
- Ensure all families, including those with limited English proficiency or disabilities, have access to engagement opportunities.

Coordination with Other Programs:

- Integrate strategies with Head Start, Greenville First Steps, Parents as Teachers, and state-run preschool programs.

Annual Evaluation and Feedback/Data Use:

- Conduct an annual evaluation of the policy's effectiveness. Remove barriers to parental participation.
- Use findings to design better engagement strategies and revise the policy as needed.
- Strengthen the Title I plan and required documents. Design strategies to expand successful activities.
- Encourage volunteering and participation in decision-making processes.

Parent Involvement in School Activities:

- Host an annual meeting to share effective engagement activities.
- Maintain records of parent participation.
- Provide feedback on engagement effectiveness.

Information on Teacher Qualifications:

- Inform parents of their right to know the qualifications of their children's teachers and paraprofessionals.