



School and Family Engagement Policy

The Exploris School

What is Title I, Part A?

Title I, Part A (Title I) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards. Federal funds are currently allocated through four statutory formulas that are based primarily on census poverty estimates and the cost of education in each state

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **The Exploris 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, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116.

Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities.

The Exploris School understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and 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

The Exploris School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

- Invite parents of students participating in Title I programs to a meeting to explain parental rights, discuss and solicit input on Title I-funded programs and activities, and gain input on this policy.
- Provide parents and family members a meaningful opportunity annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I programs and the parent and family engagement policies and plans by reviewing data collected throughout the year and giving feedback. This information will be used to revise Title I programs and parent and family engagement plans.
- Conduct outreach to parents and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year using Title I school personnel and staff.
- Ensure that this parent and family engagement policy and plan is developed with, agreed upon with, and annually distributed to parents and family members of participating students.

SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

- Design a grade-level parent-school compact, in consultation with school stakeholders, that sets out respective responsibilities in striving to raise student achievement and explains how an effective home/school partnership will be developed and maintained. In addition, the school will annually review, evaluate, and revise (if needed) this document annually with school stakeholders
- Involve and include parents and family members in the development, evaluation, and revisions of the Title I program and school improvement plan.
- Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in the Title I program to the extent feasible and appropriate with parental engagement strategies established in other federal, state, and local laws and programs;
- Conduct an annual evaluation (with meaningful involvement of parents) of the content and effectiveness of the school's parent and family engagement policy and school improvement plan. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be presented at our "Back to School Night" at the beginning of the year, and the evaluation of the policy will take place at our year-end parent forum.
- Strive to eliminate barriers to parental participation by assisting parents who have disabilities and parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, are migratory, or have other backgrounds or characteristics that may affect participation. We offer translation services to parents needing assistance. Should transportation needs arise for parents to participate in school activities, arrangements will be made to assist these parents
- Provide outreach and assistance to parents and family members of children who are participating in Title I programs in understanding the state's testing standards, the assessments used, Title I requirements, and all national, state, and local standards and expectations through such efforts as community-based meetings, posting information on The Exploris School website, sending information home, newsletters, and parent workshops

- With the assistance of parents, ensure that teachers, instructional support personnel, school leadership, teaching partners, and other staff are educated in the value of parents as partners in the educational process and understand how to work with, communicate with, and reach out to parents as equal partners in education.
- Distribute to parents information on expected student proficiency levels for their child and the school's academic performance, and provide materials and training to help parents monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement
- Coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parental involvement programs and activities with federal, state, and local programs and conduct other activities in the community that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their child
- Strengthen the partnership with agencies, businesses, and programs that operate in the community, especially those with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education
- Provide such other reasonable support for Title I parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

YEARLY NOTICE TO PARENTS

School officials and Title I school personnel shall provide yearly and effective notice of the following information as required by law. The notice must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- Program for English Language Learners
 - Provide notice of the following to parents of English learners identified for participation in Title I, Part A, including;
 - The reasons for the child's identification, including the child's level of English proficiency, how such level was assessed, methods of instruction, how the program will help the child, and exit requirements for the program
 - If the child has a disability a meeting will be held to; explain how the language instruction educational program meets the objectives of the child's individualized educational program (IEP), provide any other information necessary to effectively inform the parent of the program, and the parental rights (including enrollment, removal, and selection) of a program for English learners, and notice of regular meetings to formulate and respond to recommendations from parents
- School and Student Academic Achievement Reports
 - Distribute to all parents and the public the state school report card containing information about the school, including the performance of the school on academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole
- Teacher Qualifications
 - At the beginning of each year, school leadership shall notify parents of students who are participating in Title I programs of the right to request certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child
 - School leadership of the school shall provide timely notice (within the first 9 weeks of school) informing parents that their student has been assigned or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state

certification or licensure requirements at the grade level or subject area in which the teacher has been assigned

- Parental Rights and Opportunities for Involvement
 - Provide notice to parents of the school's written parent and family engagement policy, parents' right to be involved in their child's school, and opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in the school
 - Provide notice to parents of their right to request information regarding student participation in state-required assessments
 - Conduct a parent/teacher conference, annually (at a minimum), K-8th grade, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement
 - Provide frequent reports to parents on their child's progress as outlined in the grade-level compact.
 - Provide parents with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, and participate in their child's class, and observe classroom activities
 - Ensure regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practical, in a language that the family members understand

WEBSITE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION

Publicize on the school website:

- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction issued a School Report Card
- Information on each assessment required by the state is organized by grade level. The information will include:
 - Content assessed, purpose of assessment, schedule for assessment, basic information such as multiple-choice, open-ended, gridded response, etc., and how will scores from the test will be used, and if available, the time and format for distributing results
- Information on Title I and Title II Programs
 - Parent Family Engagement Policy and School Improvement Plan, including agenda and minutes