

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Southside Elementary School
2026-2027
9/11/2026



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Southside 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).

Southside 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.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Southside 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.

A parent representative serves on the Title team and provides input on the parent and family engagement programs. Surveys are sent to families each spring to get feedback on family concerns and needs. After each parent night, parent survey responses from those events are analyzed to determine which activities parents found helpful and what they would recommend for the future. (Note: For 2026-2027, a Title I Parent Event was held on July 28, 2026 and a spring event will also occur.) Survey feedback is considered when creating the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Southside 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.

A Title I Meeting was held for families on July 28, 2026 at 5, 6, and 7 p.m. For those not able to join in person, resources will be posted on our website under the Title tab.

COMMUNICATIONS

Southside 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, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- 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:

The parent and family engagement policy will be distributed via a pamphlet/handout to each child no later than September 11, 2026. This policy will also be posted on our webpage under the Title tab. Information about the Annual Title I Meeting will be communicated via handout, on our Facebook page, and on our website. A bilingual paraprofessional at Southside is also available to translate or interpret for families needing assistance.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Southside 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.

A survey will be included in the Annual Title I Meeting presentation to solicit parent feedback regarding the school-parent compact. Feedback will then be used to make changes to the compact and Title program in general.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Southside 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:

Budgetary information will be shared at the Annual Title 1 Meeting. The Title I allocations will be shared, and families will be notified about how funds are spent. On the parent survey, parents will have the opportunity to provide feedback about the budget. They will be encouraged to make recommendations for the use of those funds.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Southside 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:

Southside Elementary School partners with a number of agencies to provide support to our students' families. LEAPS and Bounds is our afterschool program that provides homework help and supplemental activities for our at-risk students. LEAPS also offers parent events for families to be involved. Additionally, all students have access to Homework Hotline, which provides daily homework help. During the summer of 2026, students had the option to attend Summer Learning Camps to reinforce grade level learning with a strategic review of the most critical foundational skills from the previous grade. Eligible students will also participate in TN ALL Corps grant tutoring during the 2026-2027 school year. Additional before and after school tutoring is being offered in 2026-2027. Giles County Schools partners with CB Outreach to provide free

tutoring to other students who may benefit after school and off-site. Parents are encouraged to be active participants in our school's PTO as well as attend school events. In addition to academic support, Southside also seeks to provide mental support to students. Southside partners with Health Connect to provide school-based therapy to students with parent permission. Students were able to participate in a free summer feeding program in the Summer 2026 to receive meals all summer.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Southside 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:

Teachers have access to many programs to build their capacity as educators. Some of these came with training, to better communicate with families and include them as instructional partners in their children's education. All teachers have access to School Status, a parent communication tool, which allows parents to send phone calls, emails, and texts (including attachments and pictures) to families. Southside has been designated as a Trauma Informed School. With this designation, the school implements a Trauma Informed Plan and provides training to teachers regarding ACEs and trauma informed strategies. Teachers at SES receive annual training to better understand how trauma impacts students and their families. Many of our students are considered at-risk, and the training helped teachers understand how to be more successful when working with students and families affected in this way. Teachers implement high quality instructional materials in ELA and math and have been trained on all resources.

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

Whenever possible, handouts and information will be provided in Spanish for the small population of families needing it. School Status messages are used to send text messages to families needing translation into Spanish or other languages. A bilingual assistant at Southside is used for Parent Nights and parent meetings in order to help facilitate communication between school and home. The district pays for translator and interpreter services for families needing those things. Teachers regularly use Google translate during instruction to help our ELL students be more successful. During Parent Night events, child care is provided for families to encourage parents without evening child care to attend.