



## ***Title I Parent Involvement Plan: 2020-21***

*In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Colonial School District 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.*

### **WE Believe:**

A strong partnership between the school and home is essential if a quality educational program is to be provided to all students. The Colonial School District is dedicated to the philosophy that parent involvement is integral to the success of each child. Colonial School District will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) Parents 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
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

Colonial School District will continue to build its capacity for strong parental involvement. Colonial will support a partnership between its schools, parents/ caregivers, and the community to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Colonial School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

1. Colonial School District will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. These programs will provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

- The State's academic content standards,
- The District's curriculum that aligns with the content standards,
- The State's and District's academic assessments,
- How to monitor their child's progress, and,
- Other topics related to helping parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, or other topics as parents may request.

Information about these programs, activities and procedures will be shared in a variety of ways that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Annual Title I Parent Night (or its equivalent) at each building,
- Open House/Back to School nights,
- School-Based Parent Information Nights ('Colonial Conversations'),
- Colonial School District website,
- Social Media (Facebook, AlertNow, Twitter, Instagram, Remind),
- Title 1 coordinators at each building serve as a liaison for parent involvement, teacher quality and student achievement at each school

2. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Colonial School District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the

participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternate formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. Communication will be made available in a number of ways that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- School marquees
- Take-home Folders or other equivalent mechanisms for materials distributed from the teacher
- AlertNow phone calls
- School and District websites
- School and District social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram)
- Text Message communication
- Email communication
- Classroom Communication Apps (Dojo, Remind, Etc)
- Ongoing communication facilitated by support staff at the building and district-level who oversee these programs

4. Colonial School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools through:

- Open Houses/Back to School Nights at each school
- District-scheduled staff professional development
- School Counselor training and support
- School PTO/PTA/Booster meetings
- District Academic Achievement Committee meetings
- District-sponsored academic events (i.e. STEAM Showcase, music concerts, building showcases, Arts Festival, etc.)

5. To the extent feasible and appropriate, the Colonial School District\_ will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business

leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Inviting parent organizations to display materials and/ or present at school-based Parent Nights/Back to School Nights
- Disseminating approved materials from parenting organizations through take home folders (or equivalent methods of material distribution by a school)
- Sharing links to local parent support organizations on school and district social media and websites

6. Colonial School District will develop and gather feedback from parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools and how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools. Parent groups such as the Colonial Parent Advisory Committee (or its equivalent) will have an opportunity to also provide feedback for planning purposes. During the spring District Academic Achievement Council meeting, feedback can be gathered as well for this purpose. Convenings of the Colonial Conversations committee (equivalent to the PAC) will gather information at scheduled points each month.

7. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Colonial School District will submit any parent comments with the plan when Colonial submits the plan to the Delaware Department of Education.

8. Colonial School District will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

### **School Parental Involvement Policies**

Each of the Title I elementary schools in the Colonial School District, along with parent input, will create and revise annually, a school-based parent involvement plan. This plan will provide parents with the description of how each school will implement the required policy components. The School-Parent Involvement Plan and the School-Parent Compact will be distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year and will be available on the school's websites. Colonial District staff will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.

## **Building Capacity for Involvement**

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
- Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council (via *Colonial Conversations*) to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

## **Annual Evaluation**

Colonial School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

This review will be accomplished in a number of ways that include, but are not limited to, the following:

- District Academic Achievement Council meetings (as agenda items)
- School-level success plan development and ongoing evaluation
- Distribution of school and district Parental Involvement Plans for comments and feedback
- District Parent Advisory Council (via Colonial Conversations)
- PTO/ PTA meetings
- Membership on district and/or building-level parent engagement groups and focus groups

### **Questions or more information**

If you should have any questions or would like more information about the Colonial School District Title I programs, please contact **Katie Gutowski, Supervisor of Curriculum and Instruction** ([Katie.Gutowski@colonial.k12.de.us](mailto:Katie.Gutowski@colonial.k12.de.us)) or **Gabriel Phillips, Strategic Marketing Officer** ([gabriel.phillips@colonial.k12.de.us](mailto:gabriel.phillips@colonial.k12.de.us))

### **ADOPTION**

Colonial's district parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by minutes and attendance from district-led Parent Advisory Committees (via Colonial Conversations) throughout the 2020 school year..

This policy was adopted by the Colonial School District will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children through social media and made available for school distribution.