

DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Page 1 of 6

The Board of Education, pursuant to its authority under Colorado law, hereby adopts this policy. Pursuant to federal law, the district and the parents and families of students participating in Title I district programs have jointly developed the following parent and family engagement policy to establish the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement. The policy shall be implemented by the superintendent or designee according to the timeline set forth in the policy and incorporated into the district's Title I plan.

Involvement with Title I planning

The district shall ensure that Title I schools will conduct an annual meeting for parents and families of students in Title I schools, as well as school staff, principals of schools receiving Title I funds, and other interested persons to discuss the Title I program plan, review implementation of the Title I plan, discuss how Title I funds allotted for parent and family engagement activities shall be used, and invite suggestions for improvement.

District support for parent and family engagement

The district shall provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

This coordination, assistance, and support may include:

- The district will include family and community involvement as one of the four essential elements of the Aurora Public Schools Strategic Plan.
- The district will provide technical support to leadership teams in Title I schools as they develop and evaluate the family and community plan as a part of their annual school improvement process.
- The district will review and monitor the implementation of each Title I school's family and community involvement plan during regularly scheduled site visits. (These visits will take place at least once per year).
- The district will create partnerships with various community agencies so schools can help their parents and families know and access available services and resources.

DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Page 2 of 6

- The district will provide an annual allocation from Title I funds to support parent and family activities at each Title I school.
- The district will communicate to schools the importance of creating and maintaining a welcoming atmosphere for parents and families.
- The district will support Title I schools in their efforts to eliminate language barriers as they communicate with families.

The district, with input from the district accountability committee, shall develop and implement a district professional development plan to enhance the skills of teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff in:

- Understanding the value and utility of contributions of parents
- Strategies for communication and collaboration with parents as equal partners
- Implementing and coordinating parent programs
- Building ties between parents and the school

Coordination of parent and family engagement activities with other district programs

The district shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs (including public preschools) and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their students.

The district will convene an annual meeting of staff involved in these programs to ensure coordination of effort in parent and family engagement activities. Notices and written communication about these programs will be distributed so parents know what opportunities and options are available to them and their children.

Student learning

The district shall coordinate and integrate Title I parental and family engagement strategies with those of other educational programs in the district. The purpose of this coordination shall be to improve the academic quality of the schools served, including identifying challenges for greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who:

DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Page 3 of 6

- Are economically disadvantaged
- Have disabilities
- Have limited English proficiency
- Have limited literacy
- Are of any racial or ethnic minority background
- Are parents of migratory children

Each Title I school, through the process of developing and evaluating their family and community plan annually, will identify any challenges to meaningful participation of parents and families.

The district shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and district academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor students' academic progress, and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of students.

This may be accomplished by:

- Providing support to schools through the Division of Equity in Learning for conducting training for parents and families to learn about standards, assessments, and improving student achievement.
- Explaining and communicating to parents in language that is friendly and understandable.
- Using technology to enhance parent and family access to information.
- Providing brochures and information on ways parents and families can support their child's literacy and mathematical achievement.

School-based parent involvement activities

Each Title I school shall encourage parents and families to become engaged in activities of the school by:

- Ensuring that communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and understandable.
- Scheduling parent functions at different times of the day and different days of the week.

DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Page 4 of 6

- Welcoming parents in the school while seeking and supporting their assistance.
- Encouraging and supporting parents in their important role of assisting student learning.
- Providing parents with information about services, activities and opportunities offered at the school for them and their children.

Method of communicating with parents

All information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities shall be sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Annual evaluation

The district shall conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy. Effectiveness shall be measured in part by improvements in student academic achievement and in school performance.

The evaluation shall address 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 evaluation shall specifically address challenges to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by law, particularly by parents who:

- Are economically disadvantaged
- Have disabilities
- Have limited English proficiency
- Have limited literacy
- Are of any racial or ethnic minority background
- Are parents of migratory children

The district shall use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary, this policy.

The district shall provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request.

DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Page 5 of 6

Development of school-level Title I parent and family engagement policy

Each school receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with, agree on, and distribute to parents and family members of students participating in the Title I program (hereafter referred to as “parents”) a written School-Level Title I Parent and Family Engagement policy establishing the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement in accordance with the requirements of federal law.

The plan shall contain a school-parent compact or agreement that outlines how parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students.

LEGAL REFS: 20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq. (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act)
 Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (a) (parent role in the development of district Title I plan)
 Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (e) (information for parents concerning teacher qualifications, assessments and language instruction)
 Title I, Part A, Section 1114 (b)(2) (eligible school that desires to operate a schoolwide program must develop a comprehensive plan with involvement of parents and other community members)
 Title I, Part A, Section 1115 (b)(2)(E) (Targeted Assistance Program must include parent involvement strategies)
 Title I, Part A, Section 1116 (a) (parent and family engagement policy)
 Title I, Part C, Section 1304 (c) (3) (parent involvement in projects and programs for the education of migratory children)
 C.R.S. 22-11-101 et seq. (Education Accountability Act of 2009)

CROSS REFS: ADA, School District Goals and Objectives
 AE, Accountability/Commitment to Accomplishments
 AEA, Standards Based Education
 IA, Instructional Goals and Learning Objectives

AURORA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Adopted November 2003
Revised October 2007
Revised December 2013
Revised October 2016
Revised April 2018

APS Code: KBA

DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Page 6 of 6

IHBIB, Primary/preprimary Education
IL, Evaluation of Instructional Program
ILBA, District Program Assessment
ILBB, State Program Assessments
KD, Public Information and Communications

SCHOOL-LEVEL TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
(School/Parent Compact)

Page 1 of 5

This policy and compact have been jointly developed and agreed upon by the _____ School and parents and families of students served in the school pursuant to Title I (hereafter referred to as “parents”).

Policy

The administration, staff, parents and family members of this school believe that the improved academic achievement of each student is a responsibility shared by the entire school community, including the school district, school, community members, school administration, staff, students, and parents (as defined for purposes of this policy to include guardians and all members of a student’s family involved in the student’s education).

Parent and family engagement activities in the school will include opportunities for:

- Parents to volunteer and be involved in school activities
- Staff development and parent education
- Parents to provide home support for their student’s education
- Parents to participate in school decision-making
- Effective communication between the school and parents

Compact

NOTE: The following list of responsibilities is a starting place for your discussions. The parents, administration and staff of each school should have a conversation about and agree upon expectations that will meet the unique needs of students in their particular school. The responsibilities listed in regular type below are required to be included in the school/parent compact by the Every Student Succeeds Act. However, you may wish to add to them or bring further specificity to some that are listed (as indicated by the additional material in italics).

The school-parent compact should be developed and agreed upon by all interested parents as a group. If appropriate, as determined by individual staff members and parents, individual compacts, based on the school compact, may then be developed. In such case, staff members and parents should feel free to include additional responsibilities or bring more specificity to responsibilities already listed.

SCHOOL-LEVEL TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
(School/Parent Compact)

Page 2 of 5

Responsibilities of school

The school will:

- Provide a high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling students to meet the district's academic standards.
- Involve parents in an organized, ongoing and timely way in the planning, review and improvement of Title I programs, plans and policies.

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the administration will:

- Facilitate and implement the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy at least annually.
- Provide notice to parents of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- Make the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy available to the community.

With regard to parent meetings, the administration will:

- Convene annual meetings to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, the requirements of Title I and the right of parents to be involved.
- Inform parents of all meetings and encourage and invite parents to attend. Meetings shall be offered at various convenient dates and times to facilitate attendance by parents.

With regard to Title I Programs and Plans, the administration will:

- Inform parents about the goals and purposes of Title I, any Title I programs at the school, the curriculum used in the programs, the academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of any Title I programs at the school.

SCHOOL-LEVEL TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
(School/Parent Compact)

Page 3 of 5

- If the Title I plan is not satisfactory to the parents, submit any parent comments on the plan when it is submitted to the district.
- If requested by parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings of parents and the school where parents may offer suggestions and ask questions regarding Title I policies and programs.
- Administrators will provide timely responses to parents' suggestions and questions.
- Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the district's academic standards, state and district academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, how to monitor their student's academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student.

With regard to professional development, the administration will:

- With the assistance of parents, educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders and staff in:
- the value and utility of contributions of parents
- how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- implementing and coordinating parent programs
- building ties between parents and the school

With regard to the coordination with other programs, the administration will:

- To the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent engagement programs and activities with other relevant federal, state and local laws and programs, (including public preschools), and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their students.

Shared responsibilities of administration and staff

Administration and staff will:

- Provide assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the district's academic standards, state and district academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, how

SCHOOL-LEVEL TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
(School/Parent Compact)

Page 4 of 5

to monitor their student's academic progress and how to work with school staff to improve the achievement of the student.

- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their student to improve the student's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright privacy) as appropriate, to foster parental engagement.
- Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

[Note: This may mean not only in a language that is something other than English, but also to address the education level and other factors that affect comprehensibility].

- Provide such other reasonable support for parental engagement activities as parents may request.
- *[Provide access to educational resources for parents to use together with their students.]*

Responsibilities of staff

The staff will:

- Assist the administration in facilitating and implementing the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and parent engagement activities.
- Advise parents of their student's progress on a regular basis.
- Be readily accessible to parents and provide opportunities for parents to meet with them on a regular basis to discuss their student's progress and to participate as appropriate in the decisions relating to their student's education. For elementary schools *[may want to include this provision for all grade levels]*, at least one parent/teacher conference shall be held each year during which the School-Level Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy (School/Parent Compact) will be discussed as it relates to the student's achievement.
- Provide opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their student's class and observe classroom activities.
- Ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between parents and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

SCHOOL-LEVEL TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT
(School/Parent Compact)

Page 5 of 5

Responsibilities of parents

Parents will:

- Support their student's learning at home by:
- monitoring attendance
- monitoring completion of homework
- monitoring television watching
- encouraging positive use of extracurricular time
- Volunteer in the classroom.
- Participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to their student's education.
- *[Participate in school activities on a regular basis.]*
- *[Actively communicate with school staff regarding their student's needs and circumstances.]*
- *[Be aware of and follow rules and regulations of the school and school district.]*

NOTE: The law does not require school personnel and parents to sign the School/Parent Compact. However, if the school and parents feel signing the School/Parent Compact will be helpful, signatures may be encouraged.

School staff member: _____

Date: _____

Name (print)

Title

Parent: _____

Date: _____

Name (print)

Signature