

## ***Superintendent File: KBB-R***

### **DISTRICT TITLE I PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Douglas County School District believes that the education of each student is a responsibility shared by the school as well as parents and that engaging parents is essential to improved student achievement. The District recognizes the need for a constructive partnership between the district and parents that provides for two-way communication and fosters education support for students and parents. In this policy the word “parent” also includes guardians and other members of a student’s family involved in the student’s education. In keeping with these beliefs, it is the intention of the district to cultivate and support active parental engagement and to set and realize goals for parent-supported student learning.

Pursuant to federal law, the district and the parents of students participating in the Title I district programs have jointly developed the following parent involvement policy. 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 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 allocated for parent involvement activities shall be used, and invite suggestions for improvement.

#### **District Support for Parent Involvement**

The District shall provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for strong parent involvement to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

This coordination, assistance, and support shall include:

- Support of Title I schools in helping parents understand the educational process and their role in supporting student success by encouraging them to be academic partners.
- Technical support to leadership teams in Title I schools as they develop and evaluate the family and community plan as part of their annual school improvement process.
- Review and monitoring of the implementation of each Title I school’s family and community involvement plan during regularly scheduled site visits.

- Creation of partnerships with various community agencies so schools can help their parents know and access available services and resources.
- Provision of an annual allocation from Title I funds to support parent activities at each Title I school.
- Communication to schools the importance of creating and maintaining a welcoming, respectful and responsive atmosphere for parents.
- Support of Title I schools in their efforts to eliminate language barriers as they communicate with families.
- Support of Title I schools in promoting equity by ensuring accessible programming and removing obstacles to family participation.

The district shall, with parent input, develop and implement professional development to enhance the skills of teachers, 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 Involvement Activities with other District Programs**

The District shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with the district English Language Department, Homeless Education, Early Childhood, and other programs and departments as appropriate; and conduct other activities, such as parent resource fairs, 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 involvement 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 involvement 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 barriers for 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

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

The District shall provide to parents, as appropriate, information to help them understand the state's academic content and achievement standards, state and local 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 will be accomplished by:

- Providing support to schools for communication to parents regarding standards, assessments, and improved student achievement
- Explaining and communicating to parents in language that is friendly and understandable
- Using technology to enhance parent access to information
- Providing information on ways parents can support their child's literacy, mathematical and other applicable academic achievement

### **School-based Parent Involvement Activities**

Each Title I school shall encourage parents to become involved 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
- 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 involvement of parents, 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 specifically address barriers 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 evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, this policy.

The District shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

### **Development of the School-level Title I Parent Involvement Policy**

Each school receiving Title I funds shall jointly develop with and distribute to parents of students participating in the Title I program (hereafter referred to as “parents”) a written school-level Title I parent involvement plan agreed upon by the parents 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.

Adopted: June 17, 2003

Revised: November 18, 2003

Repealed by the Board and re-enacted by the Superintendent: September 6, 2005

Revised: November 9, 2017

**LEGAL REFS:**

20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq. (Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA))

Title I, Part A, Section 1115 (b)(2)(E)

Title I, Part A Section 1116(a)

Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (a)

Title I, Part A, Section 1112 (e)

Title I, Part A, Section 1114 (b)(2)

Title I, Part C, Section 1304 (c)(3)

C.R.S. 22-11-101 *et. seq.*