

**PUNXSUTAWNEY AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT (LEA)
PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
2018-2019**

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The Punxsutawney Area School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- A. Involve parents and family members** in jointly developing the Punxsutawney Area School District's Title I, Part A plan under section 1112, and the development of school support and improvement plans under section 1111(d).

The Punxsutawney Area School District is committed to providing a quality education for every child in the district. When schools and parents form strong partnerships, all children's potential for academic success improves significantly.

- The Punxsutawney Area School District will involve parents in the development of the LEA plan and in the process of school review and improvement.
- Title I parents will participate in the development of the Title I plan and will be part of the school review procedure.
- Title I parents will serve on the planning committee for the Title I plan.
- Meetings will be held to provide Title I parents the opportunity for input into the planning, implementation, and evaluation of the Title I program.

- B. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary** to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities. These activities must 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;

The Punxsutawney Area School District will provide technical assistance and support to its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities and each schoolwide plan.

- Assists the Title I schools in identifying clear and measurable goals, student growth and achievement and for parent involvement.
- Actively support staff and promote efforts that increase the level, quality, and effectiveness of parent involvement.
- Provide parents and staff information, materials and training on required and effective parent involvement policies, practices, educational strategies and programs.
- Provide to Title I schools best practices, ideas, materials, new approaches, research and other program information in order to help schools improve student learning through family involvement programs.

- Research and model effective family involvement activities and practices.
- Provide resource materials for parent meetings, workshops and take-home learning activities.
- Assist Title I schools with training and ideas on reaching hard-to-reach parents and parent involvement activities.
- Collaborate with the PTO, Parent Advisory Council, community agencies and businesses to provide activities that build capacity for parents to assist learning and participate in school processes, such as parent workshops or family unity activities.

C. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs;

- Coordinate Title I parent involvement activities to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other programs such as the local Even Start and Head Start Agencies by providing mutual parent involvement training and information.
- Collaborate with community agencies such as Adult Basic Education and Literacy Volunteers of America to inform schools and parents of literacy training and parent education.

D. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—

- Barriers to greater participation by parents/families in activities authorized by this section (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 needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers;
- Strategies to support successful school and family interactions;
- Each school will provide conferences, trainings and workshops;
- Each school will provide a parent resource library;

The Punxsutawney Area School District will build schools' and parents' capacity for parent involvement by offering programs to strengthen the school/family partnership by providing materials and training for school staff and parents.

- Educate school staff and parents in the value of contributions of parents and how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners to implement and coordinate parent programs and to build ties between parents and the school.

- Provide staff development for teachers, families, administrators, staff, and others on how to increase the level and quality of family involvement.
- Provide training to parents in understanding topics such as the importance of challenging academic standards and how they can help their children meet them; monitoring their children's progress and literacy skills that help parents work with their children.
- Provide information and, if needed, assistance to schools and parents in understanding state academic content and performance standards; state and local assessments; requirements of Title I and how parents can assist in their child's education.
- Provide the Title I schools, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with information on how to work with business partners and/or other community organizations to learn about Title I to encourage school/family/community partnerships.
- Ensure Title I parents with limited English proficiency, literacy difficulties, or other disabilities are given the same opportunities as other parents but these opportunities may be structured, adapted or modified so that these parents may receive the same benefits and services as the other Title I parents.

The Punxsutawney Area School District will coordinate Title I parent involvement activities with other parental involvement activities.

The Punxsutawney Area School District will conduct with parents an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement policy; assess how much parent involvement has increased and the barriers to parental participation that needs to be addressed. The findings will be used to design strategies for school improvement and to revise parental involvement policies.

- E. The findings of such evaluation** will be used in the annual schoolwide plan to reflect on and to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.
- F. Involve parents in the activities of the schools**, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the LEA to adequately represent the needs of the population. This advisory board will help develop, revise, and review the parent and family engagement policy.