

Somerville Elementary

2018 - 2019

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



Somerville Elementary Family Engagement Plan

All school districts receiving Federal Title I, Part A funds are required under Section 1112 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written parent involvement plan for the district to explain how the school district supports the important role of families in the education of their children and the action steps the district will take to facilitate family support in promoting the academic success of students. This plan, as outlined below, complies with this statute.

Requirement: The District will...

- 1. Involve parents in the joint development of the Title I program plan, including the Parent Involvement Policy (section 1112) and the process of school review and improvement (section 1116);***

Somerville Elementary is dedicated to providing a quality education for every student in our district. We will achieve this by providing relevant, rigorous curriculum, building character, equity with personalized learning, and continuous improvement with feedback to promote a culture of learning. Somerville Elementary believes that families are integral partners with school personnel in the education of their children. As investors, we promote active engagement of families and empower them to support their students through cultivating talent, building community, and fostering a love of learning. Parents/guardians with children attending campuses with Title I programs and district personnel will meet at least once a year to review and revise the district and campus family engagement plans at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. Somerville Elementary will offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. Such meetings will be scheduled at convenient times and locations to support active participation in the comprehensive review of the plans and family engagement programs. Families will be informed about the meetings through multiple communication methods.

- 2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement 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;***

Somerville Elementary teachers, staff, and administrators will engage in meaningful professional development yearly to obtain the capacity to implement strategies to engage families.

3. *Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement –*

- a. *Assist parents of the children being served in understanding state standards, district and school assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress.***

Somerville Elementary is committed to building trust and a sense of security and belonging in order to provide resources to parents of children participating in Title I programs to better understand the state's academic content standards, TEKS, student academic achievement standards, and state and local academic assessments (i.e. STAAR, TELPAS and Learning Assessments). The Title I program requires the monitoring of a student's progress to develop the whole learner. School-Family events, parent-teacher conferences, or written communication (i.e. report cards, progress reports and Parent Portal) may be used to serve this purpose.

- b. *Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children, such as literacy training and using technology.***

Somerville Elementary with the Title I program will provide materials and targeted trainings in order to empower families to support their children at home to improve achievement. A variety of programs and materials will be offered for parents/guardians based on the identified needs.

- c. *Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.***

Somerville Elementary will hold an annual meeting at a convenient time, where all parents are invited along with staff members to inform them about the Title I components, requirements, as well as the family engagement programs that will provide opportunities for continuous engagement and improvement. Somerville Elementary will provide reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities which all parents will have a right to participate in.

- d. ***Coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, family engagement strategies under other programs, such as pre-kindergarten. The department also encourages schools and Local Education Agencies to develop appropriate roles for community organizations.***

Somerville Elementary will involve community organizations in family engagement activities when possible and will participate in programs that will benefit families and students.

- e. ***Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand.***

Somerville Elementary will offer family meetings, family events, and conferences at different times during the day to accommodate the needs of families. We will ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand. Families will be informed through multiple communication methods via social media, web page, letters, and or take weekly take home folders.

- f. ***Provide reasonable support for family engagement activities.***

Title I, Part A funds are available to campuses for approved family engagement activities. Such activities could include child care, transportation, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

4. *Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies;*

Families are encouraged to participate through volunteer programs at school and to create a supportive home atmosphere which promotes the profile of a learner. Each school will provide family engagement activities designed to meet the unique needs of the students, families, and community. The annual evaluation data will be used in the planning of effective programs. This will aid in the building of relationship driven, results focused, intentional, and personalized student owned activities.

5. Conduct with parents an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served under this part, including:

- **Identify barriers to greater participation by parents 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)**
- **Use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent involvement**
- **Revise parent involvement policy/procedures as necessary**

Somerville Elementary will conduct an annual evaluation survey to identify strengths and growth opportunities for the procedures in place. The survey results will be used to aid in the campus planning process, including the development of the Campus Improvement Plans and Campus Needs Assessments. These plans will be used by campus leadership teams to outline the activities that will address their specific needs to ensure that every student succeeds.

6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I, Part A

Families will have the opportunity to participate and collaborate in the Title I programs, Family Engagement Plans, and the campus specific Family-School Compacts. The Family-School Compact will be discussed at conferences held throughout the school year. One meeting will be held annually to revise this plan. Every family and community member is always welcome in our schools to collaborate with our campuses to make every student in our district a successful learner. Somerville Elementary will provide appropriate family participation opportunities for regular meetings, course sessions, and workshops to ensure that every student succeeds. Somerville Elementary will provide a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and local educational agency assisted under this part

1. **shall** provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
2. **shall** provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
3. **shall** educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
4. **shall**, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement 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 parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
5. **shall** ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
6. **may** involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
7. **may** provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
8. **may** pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
9. **may** train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
10. **may** arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with

parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;

11. **may** adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
12. **may** establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section;
13. **may** develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and
14. **shall** provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, **shall** provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT IN EDUCATION PROGRAMS

In a State operating a program under part E of title IV, each local educational agency or school that receives assistance under this part **shall** inform parents and organizations of the existence of the program.

REVIEW

The State educational agency **shall** review the local educational agencies parent and family engagement policies and practices to determine if the policies and practices meet the requirements of this section.