

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy* **Fishing Cove Elementary School**

Fishing Cove Elementary School (FC) is North Kingstown's Title I Target Assistance program school.

Our school community is one in which all families will be meaningfully engaged for student success. All parents and family members are encouraged to be active participants in their child's education.

Title I regulations require that each school served under Title I jointly develop with and distribute to parents of participating children, a written parent and family engagement policy agreed on by the parents that describes the requirements of (c) through (f) as listed below and outlined in Title I law:

A. POLICY INVOLVEMENT Each school served under this part shall –

- 1. Convene an annual meeting, 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;*

FC ensures this by the following:

This meeting is held annually and is facilitated by the Title 1 funded teacher and the District Title 1 Coordinator. Any presentation material/notes (i.e. Power Point slides) will be posted on the school website. Printed copies of the materials are available through the Title 1 funded Literacy and Math Teacher and the main office. Families are notified about the meeting by the Title 1 funded Teacher.

- 2. 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;*

FC ensures this by the following:

Family engagement activities are held throughout the year and include: Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) sponsored events, parent-teacher conferences, Open Houses, and Curriculum Nights. These meetings, activities, and celebrations are offered at various times of the day. When possible, and to allow for increased family engagement, may be allowed to attend. Parents are also encouraged to serve as volunteers in the school and classrooms.

3. *Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy;*

FC ensures this by the following:

Parent input in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Home/School Compact are solicited through teacher conferences, at the fall Title 1 meeting, and through spring parent surveys. Input on parent engagement activities/programs is also sought through PTO meetings and through annual surveys to measure involvement and interest.

Parents are also invited to participate in the District Plan and to be members of the FC School Improvement Team (SIT) and to participate fully in the annual review of the FC School Improvement Plan.

Participating parents input is solicited for the annual review of the Title I program and for the district's Title I plan as part of the CRP (Consolidated Resource Plan).

All parents and staff are invited to give feedback and make suggestions through email, the FC main office, and the Title 1 Coordinator.

4. *Provide parents of all children –*
 - i. *timely information about programs under this part;*
 - ii. *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*
 - iii. *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 practically possible.*

FC ensures this by the following:

- **Annual Title 1 Meeting for participating parents.**
- **Superintendent's and Principal's email communications to families with updates on curriculum, test scores, and overall achievement**
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences in the fall.**
- **Kindergarten Orientation on the first day of school**
- **Weekly updates listserv from principal and classroom teachers**
- **Curriculum information on district and school websites**
- **Parental notification in the case of long-term instruction by a non-highly qualified teacher**
- **Link to Rhode Island Department of Education website/current (2016) FC "Report Card":**
<https://www.eride.ri.gov/eride40/reportcards/16/SchoolReportCard.aspx?schCode=23109&schType=1>

- **Distribution of the “Parental Right to Know Requirements for Highly Qualified Teachers” in the Back to School Packet/Student Handbook. Parents receive written guidelines explaining (1) their right to know about teachers’ qualifications and (2) the notification process in the case of their child(ren) being taught for four or more weeks by a non-highly qualified teacher.**
- **Ongoing email/phone communication between parents and teachers.**

B. SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy, each school served under this part shall jointing develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

FC ensures this by the following:

The Home/School Compact is developed with input from parents, teachers, and school administrators including Title 1 staff and members of the School Improvement Team. The Compact will be sent home to participating families and reviewed during the Title 1 meeting and by the teacher during parent-teacher conferences in the fall.

The Compact contains the shared responsibilities among students, parents and staff to support the highest levels of student achievement and success.

C. 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, **Fishing Cove Elementary and the NKSD** –*

- Shall provide assistance to the parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as 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;*

FC ensures this by the following:

- **Regular distribution of report cards**
- **Parent/teacher conferences each fall**
- **Ongoing communication between teachers and parents**
- **Including parents in decisions about their child’s academic program, especially in the case of a student being referred for the following: PLP - Personal Literacy Plan, RTI - Response to Intervention, IEP - Individualized Education Plan. Parents are**

invited to participate in team planning to support their child's academic/social success.

- **All parents receive assessment score reports for their child and are invited to discuss scores/questions with their child's teacher.**

b. 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;

FC ensures this by the following:

- **Math and Literacy instruction information will be discussed at the Annual Title 1 parent meeting in the fall**
- **Math night led by Title 1 funded Math Teacher**
- **Parent support available on the use of Aspen and web based teaching programs**
- **District Math parent support materials available through <https://sites.google.com/a/nksd.net/k-5-parent-resources-2/>**
- **Regular updates and information about upcoming events/lessons from classroom teachers**
- **Teachers provide "take home" activities for parents and students to do together, as requested**

c. 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;

FC ensures this by the following:

- **School Improvement Team meetings (to include parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff)**
- **Parent engagement a central part of the FC school community though SIT, PTO, and classroom based involvement**
- **Staff are encouraged to participate in District sponsored Professional Development on topics relative to on parent engagement**
- **Book groups facilitated by Office of Family Learning and Title I staff for staff**

d. 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;

FC ensures this by the following:

Through the district's Office of Family Learning, the following programs are provided: the Parents as Teachers program (for families with children ages birth-5), Child Outreach screenings, and the Door to the District program. In addition, the District offers a full-service preschool on site at FC. These programs support parent involvement in education through a variety of means including home visits, resources and referrals, group activities, parent workshops and one-on-one support. All activities support the ideal that parents are their children's first and best teacher.

e. Shall ensure that 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 parents can understand;

FC ensures this by the following:

Information related to programs and activities are sent home through student backpacks and via electronic school listserv. It is also posted in the building. Information is provided in a "parent friendly" jargon-free manner. Interpreters are available and provided when needed/requested through the main office or with the assistance of the Title 1 Coordinator.

D. 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 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

FC ensures that family engagement activities are accessible to ALL parents/families by providing the following:

- **Written and verbal communication from the school and classroom teachers in easy to read language and utilizing the assistance of translation services, when needed**
- **Maintaining close and effective partnerships with local housing developments/homeless providers to support full participation by all families**
- **Varied meeting times and locations**
- **ADA Compliant building**

** Last updated 2017-2018 School Year*