

TITLE 1 TOWANDA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement section of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116 requires each Title 1 school to develop a written parent and family engagement policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1116. The school must ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parents of Title 1 children in a format and in a language the parents can understand. This policy was:

- Developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents and family members of Title 1 children;
- Written in an understandable format and provided in a language parents can understand;
- Distributed to all parents and family members of Title 1 children;
- Made available to the local community; and
- Updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents, family members, and the school.

1) Parents and family members will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy through Title 1 Parent Committee meetings and an end of year survey. (ESSA, Section 1116)

2) An annual meeting will be held to inform parents and family members of the school's Title 1 program and to explain the requirements of the program and the parents' right to be involved. This meeting will be held in the fall of each year. Invitations will be distributed by paper copy and by email. A brochure describing the Title 1 program will be distributed to parents each fall or when students enter the Title 1 program. (ESSA, Section 1116)

3) Parent/family meetings and conferences will be offered at different times during the day. Meetings may be held in the morning, afternoon, and/or evening. (ESSA, Section 1116)

4) Parents and family members will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title 1 Program and the school's Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Program through a meeting of the Title 1 Parent Committee. Surveys will be distributed to those who cannot attend the meeting. (ESSA, Section 1116)

5) The Towanda Title 1 Program will provide parents/family members of participating children with timely information about the Title 1 program through monthly newsletter, a Title 1 brochure, and progress reports sharing Kindergarten and first grade assessment data. (ESSA, Section 1116)

6) The Towanda Title 1 Program will provide parents/family members of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the school's achievement levels of the state's challenging state academic standards through a Standards based progress report and Title 1 progress reports and conferences. (ESSA, Section 1116)

7) Towanda will provide, if requested by parents/family members, 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. This will include parent / teacher conferences, academic student support meetings (if needed), and regular home-school communication. (ESSA, Section 1116)

8) If Towanda would become a Title 1 school-wide program, it would involve parent/family members in the joint development of the School-wide Program Plan under Section 1116. (ESSA, Section 1116)

9) A school-parent compact will be jointly developed with parents and family members. The compact outlines how parents/family members, the entire school staff and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement. The compact will be reviewed at Title 1 Parent Committee meetings and distributed in the fall or when students enter the Title 1 program. (ESSA, Section 1116)

10) Towanda will address the importance of communication between teachers and parents and family members on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum

- parent teacher conferences (Held in the fall)
- frequent reports to parents (Title 1 progress reports will be distributed three times during the school year).
- reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate/observe in their child's classroom, and
- ensuring two-way meaningful communication between family members and school staff to the extent practicable in a language that family members can understand. (The Title 1 program uses interpreting services to provide this communication.) (ESSA, Section 1116)

11) Towanda will provide assistance to parents and family members in understanding the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children through the Standards based progress report and Title 1 progress reports that contain annual goals. (ESSA, Section 1116)

12) Towanda will provide materials and training to help parents, family members, and foster parents work with their early childhood students to improve their children's achievement. Examples of this training include literacy and technology training. This will be accomplished through family meetings that provide strategies for Kindergarten and first grade children. Title 1 funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent/family engagement activities. This may include transportation, childcare, food, early childhood books, manipulatives, and journals. (ESSA, Section 1116)

13) Towanda will educate teachers, support personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents/family members, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners. Towanda will implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and family members and the school. Parent input will be part of the agenda for Title 1 Parent Committee Meetings. (ESSA, Section 1116)

14) Towanda will to the extent feasible and appropriate coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs including public preschool programs and conduct other activities, that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children. This will be accomplished through the district's planned Kindergarten transition activities. (ESSA, Section 1116)

15) Towanda will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and family members of participating children in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand. The Title 1 program will utilize various interpreting services to meet this requirement. (ESSA, Section 1116)

16) Towanda, to the extent practicable, will 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) in the Title 1 Program. Title 1 families will receive invitations to all Title 1 parent and family engagement events and all Title 1 communication through paper copies or email as specified by families (ESSA, Section 1116)