

HATTIESBURG PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by Section 1118 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) (district wide parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education.

The Hattiesburg Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with *Section 1118 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of *Section 1118(b)* of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with *Section 1118(d) of the ESSA*.
3. The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under *Section 1112 of the ESSA*.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under *Section 1111 of the ESSA* in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
5. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under *Section 1112 of the ESSA*, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

6. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
7. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESSA.*

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

The following is a description of how the school district will implement or accomplish each of the following components. *[Section 1118(a)(2), ESSA.]*

1. The Hattiesburg School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under *Section 1112, ESSA*:
 - A. A District Title I Parent Advisory Committee composed of parents from each school in the district will develop, review, and revise the district wide parental involvement plan each year.
 - B. The Parent Involvement Plan will be presented to each school's P16 Council for review and comment.
 - C. The Parent Involvement Plan will be posted to the district's website for public review and comment.
2. The Hattiesburg Public School District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under *Section 1116, ESSA* through PTA meetings, Title I meetings, and other school functions.

3. The Hattiesburg Public School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - A. District oversight and leadership
 - B. Maintain and support with appropriate information and training for parental volunteer opportunities
 - C. Assist in the development of parental leadership through PTAs and other recognized groups
 - D. Identify and publicize promising programs and practices related to parental involvement;
4. The Hattiesburg Public School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs such as: PRVO Head Start, public preschool, and EXCEL by 5 through ongoing collaboration with the agencies working with the programs.
5. The Hattiesburg Public School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
 - A. The Director of Federal Programs will provide surveys to all parents on an annual basis to obtain feedback on the content and effectiveness of parental involvement in improving the quality of the schools. The data will be analyzed by the Title I Parent Advisory Committee and any potential changes to programming will be determined.
 - B. Data will be collected on each parental involvement function held. The data will include number in attendance, topics/program offered, evaluation feedback, etc. The data will be collected by designees at each school site and at the district level.
6. The Hattiesburg Public School District will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to

support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators:
- B. The school district will support and expect the local schools to develop activities and materials that provide for effective two-way communication between parents and the school on local school and policies and individual student progress.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, support and encourage parental volunteer opportunities.
- D. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
- E. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.
- F. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with PRVO Head Start, EXCEL by 5, and public preschool and other 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.
- G. The school district will take the necessary actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- H. In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children’s education, the school district will arrange school meetings at a variety of times, and/or the school district will conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, and parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school. The school district also utilizes social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.) to advise and inform parents.
- I. The school district will establish a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- J. The school district will expect each school in the district receiving Title I funds to jointly develop with parents a “School-Parent Compact” outlining the manner in which parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement in meeting state standards. The “School-Parent Compact” shall:
- Describe the school’s responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment enabling children in the Title I program to meet the state’s academic standards;
 - Indicate the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children’s learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, monitoring television watching, volunteering in the classroom, and participating, as appropriate, in decisions related to their child’s education and positive use of extracurricular time;
 - Indicate the ways in which each student will be responsible for his/her own learning, such as attendance, on-task behavior, completing classwork and homework, and following rules; and
 - Address the importance of parent-teacher communication on an on-going basis, with at a minimum, parent-teacher conference, frequent reports to parents, and reasonable access to staff.
- K. The school district will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under *Section 1118(a)(2), ESSA* as parents may request.]

Reference School Board Policy LA/LAA/LC

ADOPTION

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the minutes of the Title I Parent Planning Meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Hattiesburg Public School District on _____ and will be in effect for the period of school year 2018-2019. The school district will make this policy available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 15, 2018.