

Frederick County Public Schools

Division-wide Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Frederick County Public Schools, as a recipient of Title I, Part A funds, has developed jointly with, agreed on with, and distributed to, parents of participating children, a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This policy describes how the division will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and is integrated into the division's policy submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE).

PART I. General Expectations and Objectives for Meaningful Parent and Family Engagement

FCPS (Frederick County Public Schools) agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- A. **Involve parents and family members** in jointly developing the division's Title I, Part A plan under section 1112, and the development of school support and improvement plans under section 1111(d).
- B. **Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary** to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA (Local Educational Agency) 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.
- 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.
- 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—
 - o 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);
 - o The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - o Strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
- E. **Use the findings of such evaluation** 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.
- G. **Implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners**, in a language the parents can understand, to inform them regarding how they can—

- be involved in the education of their children; and
- be active participants in assisting their children to—
 - attain English proficiency;
 - achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and
 - meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students

PART II. Implementation of the Required Parent and Family Engagement Components

A. Frederick County Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the joint development of its division wide parental and family engagement policy under section 1112 of the ESSA:

- The Division Parent Advisory Council assists in developing, reviewing and revising the division parent and family engagement policy at the fall Division Parent Advisory Council meeting each school year.

Frederick County Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:

- School SOL test results are shared with parents through the school report cards and school improvement goals are shared through parent/teacher meetings and through school newsletters. Schools implementing a Schoolwide Title I program involve parents in the planning and revising process of the Schoolwide Title I Plan.

B. Frederick County Public Schools 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:

- The Title I supervisor provides oversight to parent and family engagement activities through the development of consistent structures and processes. Checklists are shared with principals at the beginning of each school year explaining the requirements as determined by FCPS and VDOE guidelines and procedures.
- Title I principals and teachers provide evidence and documentation for each Title I requirement listed on the checklist.
- Teachers share parent involvement activities/ideas with their colleagues at Title I staff meetings.
- The Title I supervisor shares community resources and contacts with Title I administrators and teachers that would help support parents and families in Title I schools.

C. Frederick County Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with Head Start by:

- Frederick County Public Schools provides support services to Head Start families by inviting them to Virginia Preschool Initiative parent events.
- Frederick County Public Schools provides information about school readiness to Head Start families and invites Head Start staff and families to visit kindergarten classrooms.

D. Frederick County Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement 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).

- Division Parent Advisory Council members assist in developing the parent evaluation survey at the spring meeting.
- Parent evaluation surveys are sent to all parents in Schoolwide Schools. The survey is distributed in the Spring.
- The Supervisor of Federal Programs will collect the returned evaluation surveys in June.

- The Supervisor of Federal Programs compiles the results of the surveys and uses those results in planning the Title I program for the next school year.
 - Survey results are reported to Title I administrators and staff and to the Division Parent Advisory Council at their fall meeting.
- E. Frederick County Public Schools will use the findings from the evaluation about its parent and family engagement 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.
- F. Frederick County Public Schools will build schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- Frederick County Public Schools will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools (including the Title I Division Parent Advisory Council), provide assistance to parents of children served by Frederick County Public Schools, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph.
 - Virginia's academic content standards (Standards of Learning or SOLs),
 - Virginia's student academic achievement standards,
 - Virginia's and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - meeting the requirements of Title I, Part A,
 - monitoring their child's progress, and
 - working with educators:
 - Title I schools will offer four events for parents each school year.
 - The first school workshop in the fall will include a review of the requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - Frederick County Public Schools 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 and mathematics training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
 - providing at least four school-level workshops each year offered at a variety of times for parents to learn how to improve their child's achievement, to provide literacy training, to demonstrate the use of technology, and to foster parent involvement.
 - paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
 - providing parent informational brochures to help parents improve their child's academic achievement.
 - Frederick County Public Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, 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. Frederick County Public Schools will take the following 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:
- Invitations to parents for meetings/activities are translated into their native language whenever practicable.
 - Interpreters are available for parent meetings whenever practicable.

- Interpretation and translation services are scheduled through the Title III supervisor.

PART III. Adoption

This division wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by minutes from the division parent advisory council meeting on November 20, 2023.

This plan, approved by the superintendent of schools of Frederick County Public Schools, will be in effect for the period of one school year. Frederick County Public Schools will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children by January 31, 2023.

Superintendent of Schools Signature

Dr. George Hummer

Superintendent of Schools Name

Date