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## COMMUNITY SCHOOL

### **School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2023-2024**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, The ECU Community School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The ECU Community School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:



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- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

### **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**The ECU Community School** will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- A) Involve parents and families in the joint planning and review of the Title I Program as a part of regular School Improvement Team meetings.
- B) Involve parents and families in the annual local review of the Title I Program.

### **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**The ECU Community School** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

- A) The Annual Review will be conducted each spring and will include an analysis of state and local assessment data, a review of grade level needs and services provided, parent/teacher/and/or student survey data, and a summary analysis of the effectiveness of Title I Services.
- B) This meeting will be used to distribute copies of any revisions to the parent and family engagement policy, school-wide plan, and school-parent/family compact.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**The ECU Community School** will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number and scheduling of meetings to accommodate parent schedules
- 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,



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including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- A) Communicating regularly with parents in clear and understandable terms. This will include opportunities for parents to participate in decision-making roles, volunteer opportunities, Title I meetings, classroom newsletters, an annual parent survey, parent-school compacts, and parent-teacher conferences.
- B) Parent-teacher meetings will be scheduled at any time, as requested by parents.
- C) Coordinating parent engagement activities with other initiatives in order to connect parents with Integrated Health and ECU resources.

### **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

The ECU Community School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- A) Involve parents in the development, implementation, and review of Parent-School Compacts annually at the last school-wide parent event to maximize parent input.
- B) The compact will be discussed and signed during fall parent-teacher conferences and reviewed during spring conferences.
- C) The compact will be available for parent/family review at the school and on the ECUCS website.

### **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The ECU Community School will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the set-aside of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

- A) Gaining parent input about planned expenditures for parent and family engagement at regular School Improvement Team Meetings.

### **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The ECU Community School 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, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:



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- A) Coordination of Wellness Collaborative and Integrated Health initiatives for the school will occur to maximize family engagement and participation in social-emotional, physical and mental health wellness activities.
- B) Collaborate with Sadie Saulter PreK Center to recruit students for future enrollment through offering parent inquiry and application meetings.

### **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

**The ECU Community School** will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - The challenging State's academic standards
  - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
  - The requirements of Title I, Part A
  - How to monitor their child's progress
  - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

Specific capacity building for families will occur as follows:

- Information will be provided during an annual fall meeting, through quarterly progress notices, at parent-teacher conferences, in the school newsletter, and on the school website.
- Resources will be provided in classroom newsletters and communications, through the Integrated Health Room. Parent trainings and family education nights will be planned each year based on the school needs assessment and may include a family Literacy Night, Science Night, etc.

### **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

**The ECU Community School** will provide training to 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,



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communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

- Throughout the year hosting family events around academic, social-emotional, and health related topics. Events will be advertised well in advance of the meeting. When possible integrating community partners to collaborate will occur to maximize community engagement.
- Partnership events with South Greenville Elementary (our co-located school) will occur throughout the year where families will be invited to participate. These events include guest speakers, performances, etc.
- The faculty and staff at ECUCS will engage in professional development regarding trauma-informed teaching practices, poverty, as well as participate in a Research Practice Partnership to develop strategies for boosted family engagement.

**The ECU Community School** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Leveraging our school social worker to provide resources and support to families throughout the year.
- Engaging in a Wellness Collaborative with community partners, healthcare providers, and other service organizations to provide referrals and friendly hand-offs to services needed by families. Examples may include connections with the Greenville Housing Authority, Social Services, a variety of primary care providers for physical and mental health, Greenville Parks and Recreation, and other entities as appropriate.

This **ECU Community School** Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs as evidenced by meeting minutes.

The policy was adopted on August 11, 2023.

The **ECU Community School** will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children and provide a copy on the school website for public viewing.

Signature of Authorized Representative

8-11-23

Date

