



District Parent and Family Engagement Policy Harrison County School District

Last Updated: May 13, 2021

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Harrison County School District** 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, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the parents and the school's changing needs. The policy establishes the school's or district's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement several specific parental and family engagement activities.

Harrison County School District understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- Parents and families 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.

Harrison County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Harrison County School District 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 parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

HCSD will hold an Annual Title I Planning Meeting for parent representatives across the district each school year. This meeting is usually held in 2nd semester to begin planning for the next school year. Due to "social distancing" protocols, the meeting will be shared via various media platforms.

B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS

Harrison County School District will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening.

C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Harrison County School District will take the following actions to 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.

HCSD will present the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents at the Annual Title I Planning Meeting for suggestions and approval. HCSD will also post the district/school Parent and Family Engagement Policies on the district website and, to the extent practical, elicit feedback on these policies.

D. COMMUNICATION

Harrison County School District will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be 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.

Schools will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policies at the school level and post the approved policy on their website. The district will distribute the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents at each district meeting and publish the district's website once the Harrison County School Board has approved said policy. Schools will use student planners, student folders, Facebook pages, phone calls, conferences, parent meetings, workshops, School Messenger (automated phone system), Schoology, and the district web site to keep parents informed of information related to school and parent programs, students' expected proficiency levels, meetings, and other activities. The district will use meetings, workshops, Facebook, Schoology, School Messenger, and the district website to keep parents informed. To the extent

practical, this information will be provided in a language that parents can understand and free from educational jargon.

E. DISSENTION PROCESS

Harrison County School District will submit any comments/concerns to the Harrison County School District Superintendent's office if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

Any comments/concerns can be sent to the Director of Federal Programs, Melissa Garrison, at mgarrison@harrison.k12.ms.us or by phone at 228-539-6500.

F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Harrison County School District will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

Schools accepting Title I A funds will convene an Annual Title I Schoolwide meeting annually within the first semester of the school year to jointly develop with parents and faculty a school-parent compact (if this is not completed the Spring prior). Upon parent approval, the schools will distribute to all parents this document. Administrators, teachers, and parents will use this document in ongoing, two-way conversations about student achievement and behavior. In the Spring of each year, the schools will review this document and revise it as necessary for the coming year. Using this method of updating the compact, schools will elicit feedback from students, faculty, and families in each year's Spring and Fall.

G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Harrison County School District will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- 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 parental involvement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - 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 Title I, Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the 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.
- Coordinate and integrate parental 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 to fully participate in the education of their children.

For the 2021-2022 school year, assistance will be provided to schools to support parent and family engagement in the following ways the District will support the schools in parental involvement activities with both financial as well as personnel resources to meet the programming identified in school Parent and Family Engagement Plans. Assistance will be provided in areas such as the following:

- *Training opportunities during scheduled parent nights;*
- *Parent/teacher conference trainings;*
- *Orientation activities;*
- *EL Parent and Family nights will also be planned throughout the year (Maybe provided virtually to schools – schools will post to the Schoology platform).*
- *District Resources – a list of district resources appears on the district's website at www.harrison.k12.ms.us under the tab "For Parents."*
- *HCSD also maintains social media pages to highlight events in the school district.*
- *In addition, each Title I school must maintain a monthly parent workshop focused on helping parents help students at home (will be provided virtually, if needed).*

H. ACCESSIBILITY

Harrison County School District, in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Parent meetings will be offered at flexible times throughout the school year. All announcements, to the extent practical, will be available through the district website and Facebook pages in a language that can be understood by parents. Progress reports, Report Cards, state assessment results, and other information regarding student achievement will be sent to parents in a timely manner. HCSD will also maintain a district data site for parents to access student grades and assessment scores at any time. All schools, as well as the district office, maintain normal business hours and welcome feedback in the form of personal visits, conferences, emails, and phone calls (social distancing protocols will be respected). Please note, appointments are preferred so that parents may be offered our full attention. In addition to HCSD Title I Parent Meetings, we will also hold parent meetings for parents of students in the English Learner

Program. Due to "Social Distancing," meetings may be recorded or held virtually this school year.

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