



## **Parent and Family Engagement Title I, Part A**

### **Overview and Purpose**

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) places a strong emphasis on the need for districts and schools to actively engage with parents and family members. A Title I, Part A provision requires Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) to actively engage parents and families of *all* students in the development of state and local education plans, school improvement plans, as well as Title I plans (ESSA Section 1116).

### **Title I and Parent and Family Engagement**

#### **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Each district receiving Title I funds must have a written policy that is jointly created with and distributed to parents and family members of participating students. The policy requires the following:

1. Establish expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement to improve student academic achievement and school performance incorporated into the Title I District Plan.
2. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state and local laws and programs.
3. Conduct an annual meeting and evaluate the effectiveness of the policy in improving quality of Title I schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by families and the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children; and,
4. Conduct meaningful consultation with parents of participating children, which may include establishing an advisory board to develop, revise and review the engagement policy.

#### **Parent Compact**

An outline of how parents, students and school staff will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve must be reviewed and signed by all participating students and parents.

#### **Fiscal Responsibility**

LEAs must reserve a minimum of 1 percent of Title I funds to carry out parent and family engagement activities (except for districts where 1 percent of the grant is \$5,000 or less). Not less than 90 percent of those funds must be distributed to Title I schools, with priority given to high-need schools. Districts may exceed their 1 percent set aside.

Funds should be used to carry out activities and strategies that include at least one of the following:

1. Provide professional development opportunities for school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies
2. Support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community and at school
3. Disseminate information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement,
4. Provide subgrants to schools to enable them to collaborate with community-based organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagements.
5. Engage in any other activities and strategies that are determined appropriate and consistent with the LEA's parent and family engagement policy

#### **Allowable Expenses for Parent and Family Engagement in Title I, Part A**

- |                                              |                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| *Parent engagement coordinators and liaisons | *Assistance for parents to work with their children  |
| *Assistance and training for parents         | *Training for school staff to increase collaboration |
| *Parent literacy and education               | *Accommodations for limited English families         |
| *Materials for engaging families             | *Support for family to participate in trainings      |

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or concerns.

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