



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Laurel School District

School Year 2023-2024

Revision Date July 20, 2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Laurel 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 that contains information required by *Section 1116* of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Mississippi Department of Education.

The Laurel School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with *Section 118* of the *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
2. Consistent with *Section 1116*, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of *Section 1116(b)* of the *ESSA*, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with *Section 1116(d)* of the *ESSA*.
3. The school district will incorporate this district-wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan development under *Section 1112* of the *ESSA*.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, 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.

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 Mississippi 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 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 1116 of the ESSA.*

DISTRICT IMPLEMENTATION

The following is a description of how the school district will implement or accomplish each of the following components. [*Section 1116 (a)(2), ESSA.*]

1. The Laurel School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district-wide parental and family engagement plan under *Section 1112*, of the *ESEA*:
 - a. A District Title I Parent Advisory Committee is composed of parents from schools across the district who will develop, review, and/or revise the district-wide parental involvement plan each year.
 - b. The Parent Involvement Plan will be presented to the district's P-16 Council for review and comment.
 - c. The Parent Involvement Plan will be posted on the district's website for public review and comment.

2. The Laurel School District will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under *Section 1116* of the *ESSA* through PTO meetings, Title I meetings, and other school functions.
3. The Laurel 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. Provide district oversight and leadership,
 - b. Maintain and support with appropriate information and training for parental volunteer opportunities,
 - c. Provide a District Parent Liaison and District Bi-lingual Parent Liaison to assist parents, students, and the community with resources,
 - d. Provide access to district website translation [multiple languages],
 - e. Identify and publicize promising programs and practices related to parental involvement.
4. The Laurel School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs such as Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc (Head Start), and public preschools through ongoing collaboration with agencies working with the programs.
5. The Laurel School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental and family 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 of its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents and families), its parent and family engagement policies.
 - a. The Director of Federal Programs or his/her designee 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 the number in attendance, topics/programs offered, evaluation feedback, etc. The data will be collected by designers at each school site and at the district level.
6. The Laurel School District will communicate with parents of English Learner (EL) students:
 - a. The reasons the child is identified as an English Learner and where he/she will be placed.
 - b. The child's levels of English and academic achievement and how the levels were accessed.
 - c. A description of the programs available, the differences between them, and the methods of instruction.
 - d. The ways in which the programs will meet the child's educational strengths and needs.
 - e. The ways in which the programs will help the child learn English and grade-level standards for promotion and graduation.
 - f. The exit requirements of the program, including the expected rate of transition to an English-language mainstream classroom, and the expected rate of graduation from high school.
 - g. The right of the parent to decline enrollment, request the child be moved from the programs offered, or receive help in choosing another one.
7. The Laurel School District will build the schools' and parents' 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 the 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 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, on 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 Friends of Children of Mississippi, Inc (Head Start), public preschool, and other programs and conduct other activities, such as a parent resource center, that encourages and supports parents in more fully participating in the education of their child(ren).
- 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.
 - The district will provide a calendar of events on the district website and announced on the district's social media platforms to keep parents informed of meetings and activities at the school and district levels.
 - Private schools will be notified of parent meetings, workshops, and resources available to their parents through the district and schools utilizing Laurel School District website and social media platforms.
- 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 and 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 ongoing 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 1116(a)(2), ESSA* as parents may request.

Reference School Board Policy IDDA

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the Title I Parent Planning Meeting.

This plan was adopted by the **Laurel School District** on **July 25 2023**, and will be in effect for the period of the 2023-2024 school year. The school district will review and reevaluate, revising the policy/plan as necessary. The school district distributed this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children via the Laurel School District website prior to August 1, 2023.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)