

**GREENWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT
ESEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

- 1) The Greenwood Public School District recognizes the importance of a positive parent/school partnership and encourages all schools to involve parents in the educational program. This parent and family engagement policy was developed with input from parents, teachers, administrators and students. It is reviewed annually and revised as needed. The Greenwood Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements in schools currently being served as school-wide Title I schools:
 - a) The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
 - b) Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA as amended by ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESEA as amended by ESSA.
 - c) The school district will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA as amended by ESSA.
 - d) In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental 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, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA as amended by ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
 - e) If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA as amended by 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.
 - f) The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one (1) percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one (1) percent reserved goes directly to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools.
 - g) The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of *parental and family engagement*, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

The term “parental 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—

- (1) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;*
- (2) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;*
- (3) 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;*
- (4) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA as amended by ESSA.*

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- 1) The Greenwood Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district-wide parental engagement plan under section 1112 of ESEA as amended by ESSA:
 - a) Establishing a district-wide Parent Advisory Team to provide advice on matters related to parental involvement. This Team will jointly develop, with district staff, the district parental engagement plan, which will be reviewed annually and revised as needed.
 - b) Assist all schools and their teams in developing school level plans that increase parent and family engagement.
- 2) The Greenwood Public School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school support and improvement under section 1111(d) of the ESEA as amended by ESSA:
 - a) Ensuring that an Annual Title I meeting is hosted for all parents early in the school year at each school building. Parents will meet with classroom teachers, Title I teachers, and itinerant staff to learn about curriculum, annual objectives, and teacher expectations.
 - b) Require each school to have meetings in addition to the required Annual Title I meeting.
- 3) The Greenwood Public 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 and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - a) Providing timely support, information, and services to staff in participating Title I programs
 - b) Designating a Parent and Family Liaison to encourage and support parent and family engagement activities.
 - c) Developing a committee, which includes parents, to develop, monitor and revise program activities.

- d) Hosting meetings, events, celebrations, and conferences that invite parents and community members to learn more about program goals and activities.
 - e) Offering parent workshops on a variety of topics specific to each program such as literacy, child development, drug and alcohol issues, arts education, and technology integration.
- 4) The Greenwood Public School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of the Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, and 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 about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.
- a) Conducting annual surveys of parents to evaluate the effectiveness of parental engagement activities provided by each school and the district.
 - b) Utilizing survey results in the strategic planning process for each school and the district. The Parent and Family Liaison will assist in the evaluation and planning process.
 - c) Offering each parent in the district the opportunity to provide feedback to the school and district staff on program activities and parental engagement plans.
- 5) The Greenwood Public School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement 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. 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—
- (1) Mississippi's academic content standards,
 - (2) Mississippi's student academic achievement standards,
 - (3) Mississippi's and the local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - (4) The requirements of Part A,
 - (5) How to monitor a child's progress, and
 - (6) How to work with educators.

The Greenwood Public School District will provide assistance on these topics by undertaking the actions described below:

- (a) Providing appropriate training for parents in appropriate settings so that parents can learn about child development, state and district academic standards and assessments, and show parents how to work with their children to improve their

children's achievement including monitoring a child's progress and working with teachers/school staff.

- (b) Arranging meetings at flexible times to maximize the opportunities for parents to participate.
- (c) Coordinating workshops and classes and provide information on statewide and out-of-state conferences that focus on improving parental engagement in their child's education.
- (d) Providing, with the assistance of its schools, 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 engagement, by sponsoring programs for parents and community members on a variety of topics such as literacy, child development, drug and alcohol issues, and technology throughout the school year.
- (e) Educating teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, in 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, by:
 - (1) Sponsoring programs for parents and community members on a variety of topics such as early childhood development, literacy, child psychology and proper healthcare throughout the school year.
 - (2) Offering programs to parents of preschool age children in collaboration with local and state services.
- (f) Sending information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities 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 by:
 - (1) Providing documents of a professional quality,
 - (2) Complying with all federal requirements for parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

PART III: ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA, district personnel, the parent/family liaison, and principals will communicate and collaborate to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children). Information and schools' reports required under section 1111, will be provided in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents understand.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Section 1116