



Title I, Part A Local Education Agency (LEA)/District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Policy) describes the means for carrying out designated Title I, Part A, parent and family engagement requirements pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116(a).

The purpose of this Policy is to:

The purpose of this policy is to outline how parents and the district, along with school staff, will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the district, schools, and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

How will parents and family members be involved in the development of this Policy (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][A], and 1116[a][2][F])?

Our district has developed this written Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy with input from Title I parents during School Site Council (SSC) meetings and the annual Title I Parent Meeting. All school sites actively recruit parents/family members to participate in a parent advisory capacity and in the needs assessment process.

How will parents and family members be involved in developing school improvement plans (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][A])?

Parents and family members who have been elected to each site's School Site Council and English Learner Advisory Committee and those parents who attend the annual Title I parent meeting will be involved in developing and/or revising the School Plan for Student Achievement at each site. Parents are encouraged to participate in the needs assessment process.

How does the Local Educational Agency (LEA) provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance? Does this include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education (ESSA Section 1116 [a][2][B])?

To assist and build the capacity of all Title I participating schools, the district employs support staff who collaborate with school staff and parents to develop goals, programs, and classes to support parents. These staff members serve as liaisons between parents, schools, and outside community agencies to support efforts to improve student academic performance and parent involvement. In addition, the district is actively involved in:

- Conducting ongoing site visits to observe and support parent and family engagement practices
- Enhancing the awareness and skills of teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners

- Ensuring that information is sent home in a language and form that parents can easily understand, as required
- Providing copies of the LEA policies related to parent involvement to each parent
- Assisting sites with resources to build parent capacity
- Conducting parent education workshops

The district monitors each Title I school to ensure that each school performs the following tasks:

- Develops a site Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact, offers flexible meeting times, and provides information to parents about the school's program
- Provides training for parents to work with their child to improve academic achievement and includes training on school communication systems in order to have real-time access to their child's attendance and achievement
- Reinforces parenting skills to support the acquisition of academic skills and their application in real-life situations
- Encourages parents to visit/volunteer at school by assisting staff in developing volunteer opportunities as well as training staff to encourage and build volunteer efforts
- Convenes annual school meetings to inform parents of their school's participation in the development of the Parent/Family Engagement Policy and each parent's right to be involved

How will LEAs conduct, with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy on improving academic quality of all schools served under Title I, Part A, and use the finding to design evidence-based strategies (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][D], and 1116[a][2][E])?

An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy will be conducted at School Site Council and District Advisory Council meetings with the involvement of parents. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities. Particular attention will be given 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 district will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement. The policy will be reviewed and revised, if necessary.

What are the barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by ESSA Section 1116? Please note with particular attention, parents and family members who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][i]):

While numerous barriers to parent participation exist for both schools and families, some barriers are created by limited resources, while others originate from the beliefs, perceptions, and attitudes of families and school staff.

La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools will work to decrease the following common barriers to parent communication:

- Language
- Lack of understanding of parents' communication styles
- Teachers' assumptions about parents' willingness or lack of willingness to participate
- Limited family resources (transportation, childcare)
- Parents' lack of comfort and familiarity with the education system and how their child's school functions
- Tension in relationships between parents and teachers due to parents' own negative experiences in school
- Transiency of families making it harder to build relationships between families and school staff
- Parents believing that their voices don't make a difference

What are the needs of parents and family members so that they may assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][ii])? What are the strategies used to support successful school and family interactions (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][iii])?

In order to assist with the learning of their children, parents and family members need to know how to:

- Support their child's learning through strategies that are aligned with what teachers are using in the classroom
- Reinforce good study habits in the home by designating study spaces and solidifying reading and other after school routines

Parents also need to know:

- What and how their children are learning in the classroom on a consistent basis
- How to establish a partnership with a regular two-way communication between home and school

To support successful school and family interactions, the district is committed to engaging parents through:

- Parent education workshops provided by district staff and local community agencies
- The use of multiple methods of communication (flyers, phone calls, district/school websites) to promote participation
- The continuance of School Site Councils and English Learner Advisory Committees at each site who send a representative from each site to the district-level parent advisory committees, known as the District Advisory Committee and the District English Learner Advisory Committee
- The distribution of a district-wide parent survey with disaggregated results for each site that can lead to improved results
- The maintenance of a district website with current resources available to parents to support them in working with their children's academic, social, and emotional needs
- Enhancing the awareness and skills of teachers, principals, and staff in reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners

LEAs provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities. This may include consultation with employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations, or individuals. What technical assistance will be provided to parents (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][A])?

District staff overseeing Title I, Part A funds will provide guidance and support on appropriate use of parental involvement funds and review Parent/Family Engagement Policies and School-Parent Compacts. Ongoing site visits to observe parent and family engagement practices will occur. Parents will be provided the opportunity to attend numerous parent education workshops with topics to include:

- Reading development strategies and the language arts curriculum
- Math development strategies and the math curriculum
- School/State assessments
- Homework help strategies
- Internet safety
- Bullying
- Helping children learn to cooperate and discipline that makes sense
- Understanding yourself and your child
- Listening to and talking with your child

How will LEAs reserve 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds to carry out parent and family engagement requirements (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][A])? How will LEAs allot funds for parent and family engagement (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][B])? How will LEAs distribute 90 percent of the 1 percent reserve to schools (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][C])?

La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools will distribute 90% of the 1% reserve to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. Each school has their own allocation. Each year, every school offers parents the

opportunity to give feedback during School Site Council meetings on the 1% reservation of funds. The district will provide guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. The total allocation for parent involvement supports printing, supplies, and materials for parent activities at each Title I school. By hiring consultants and presenters, schools may also offer professional development for parents on enhancing their parenting skills to ensure the academic success of their children. Parents are informed of the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and are provided an opportunity to provide feedback and input at the School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Committee, and other school meetings.

How will LEAs provide assistance to parents and families in understanding the state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I, Part A requirements, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to work with educators to help all students succeed (ESSA Section 1116[e][1])?

La Mesa Spring Valley Schools will build school and parent capacity for strong parental involvement and will strive to ensure effective involvement of parents in our district in order to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community. With the assistance of its Title I schools, during Title I annual meetings, School Site Councils, English Learner Advisory Committees, and family engagement events, the district will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district in understanding topics such as:

- The state's academic content standards
- The state's student achievement standards
- The state and district academic assessments
- The requirements of the Title I program
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with their child's teacher and other educators

How will LEAs provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literary training and using technology (ESSA Section 1116[e][2])?

The La Mesa-Spring Valley Schools website lists a variety of parent resources related to helping parents and families work with their children to improve achievement; however, teachers also provide take-home materials based on specific student needs using approved intervention materials. Parents are provided with training at family engagement events on ways to work with children to improve achievement, including information about state assessments and online tools for practice.

How will LEAs educate teachers, instructional support staff, principals, and other school leaders and staff, with the assistance of parents and families, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and families, and reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and families as equal partners, implementing and coordinating parent and family programs to build ties between parents and families, and the school (ESSA Section 1116[e][3])?

District teachers regularly attend staff development which often focuses on best practices for working as partners with parents. Teachers and staff attend parent meetings and district-sponsored parent trainings as partners with the school's parent participants.

How will LEAs coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement programs with other federal, state, and local laws and programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent and family resource centers that encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][C], and 1116[e][4])?

La Mesa Spring Valley Schools, in an effort to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement, will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I, to the extent possible, with the following programs:

- State-run preschool
- Adult ESL program
- Watch Dog program

Schools in the district design parent events such as Literacy, Math, and Science Nights as well as school events involving the community. Parents are provided with training at these events on ways to work with children to improve achievement, including information about the state assessments and online tools for practice. Teachers often provide additional resources to share strategies to build student literacy, comprehension, and math skills at home.

How will LEAs ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand (ESSA Section 1116[e][5])? How will the LEA ensure that the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is in a format and language that is easy for the parents and families to understand (ESSA Section 1116[f])?

The following actions will be taken to ensure that Title I information related to the school and parent/family (programs, meetings, and other activities) is sent to parents in a format and language parents can understand:

- Provide translators at the campus level for Spanish speaking parents
- Set up district phone call and email system in English and Spanish, based on the primary language identified for the home
- Provide written translation for Title I information in both English and Spanish, as required

Although our district translates district-wide notices for events into Spanish, as required, notices are translated into other languages whenever possible.

How will LEAs provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section (ESSA Section 1116[e][14])?

Parents are provided a hard copy of the Title I Parent Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and resources to support them to stay informed on student academic achievement and progress. Parents are informed about student achievement data at the site's annual Title I meeting and at other parent meetings. At School Site Council, English Learner Advisory Committee, and other meetings convened throughout the year, parents learn about the Title I program and how it can serve their children through supplemental programs. Parents also receive information through the district and site websites, via phone and/or email, parent teacher conferences, family engagement nights, Back to School Night, and Open House.

This policy will be in effect in the La Mesa-Spring Valley School District for the period of the 2020-21 School Year.

The LEA will distribute this Policy to all parents and families of students participating in the Title I, Part A program on, or before: September 30, 2020.

California Department of Education
July 2018