

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

This policy was developed jointly with, and agreed upon and distributed to, parents and family members of District students. All parents of District students shall be notified of this policy in an understandable and uniform format, and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. This policy shall be provided to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the District.

The Board of Education desires for meaningful parent and family involvement in the educational process for District students. To achieve that objective, the Board will:

1. Involve parents and family members in jointly developing the District's "local educational agency plan" under 20 U.S.C. §6312, and the development of support and improvement plans under 20 U.S.C. §6311(d)(1) and (2). The Board will do this by:

The Board directs the administration to develop jointly with parents and family members the District's Local Educational Agency Plan by inviting and encouraging participation in the District's Strategic planning process which will guide the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan submitted to the Ohio Department of Education each year.

2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all of the District's schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. The Board will do this by:

The Board will support the Superintendent and other District administration to hold meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, philanthropic organizations and individuals with expertise in engaging parents and families (i.e., SCESC consultants, Summit Education Initiative) through regularly scheduled meetings throughout the school year. These discussions will transpire during Business Advisory Council meetings at the District level, Parent/Teacher Organization meetings at the building level and professional development sessions from consultants to provide the support necessary to assist and build effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement.

3. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. The Board will do this by:

The Board directs the Superintendent to ensure that the primary grade levels work collaboratively with Community Based Organizations to coordinate and integrate parent

and family engagement strategies for pre-school children (i.e., Summit Education Initiative, Kindergarten Coalition, Summit County area pre-schools.)

4. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of all District schools, including identifying: (i) barriers to greater participation by parents in authorized 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); (ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and (iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The Board will do this by:

The Board, along with its Superintendent and other appropriate staff will conduct, with the meaningful 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 Title I schools, including the identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in activities under this policy, and the revision of parent and family engagement policy, if necessary for more effective involvement. This review will be facilitated during the annual Title I meeting with input from the District Leadership Team, each of the Building Leadership Teams and Parent/Teacher Organizations from each Title I served school in the District.

5. Use the findings of such evaluation in paragraph (4), above, to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section. The Board will do this by:

The Board, along with its Superintendent and other appropriate staff (i.e., DLT members) will utilize the information from the annual Title I meeting to work together with individuals with expertise in effective parental involvement to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and revise, if necessary, the District family engagement policy.

6. Involve parents in the activities of the schools of the District, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. The Board will do this by:

The Board, along with its Superintendent and other appropriate staff members and parents and family members will review, as needed, the parent and family engagement policy.

Policy Involvement

To facilitate the involvement of parents and families under this policy, the District shall:

1. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of District students shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of the District's obligations under 20 U.S.C. §6318, and to explain the requirements of that statute and the right of the parents to be involved. The District will do this by:

The District will host an annual Title I meeting at a convenient time and invite parents to attend. This meeting will be for the purpose of informing parents of the District obligations under 20 U.S.C. 6318, and to explain the requirements of that statute and the right of the parents to be involved.

2. Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. The District will do this by:

The District will offer a flexible number of opportunities for parent involvement including, but not limited to parent informational meetings (i.e., Kindergarten Parent Night), parent/teacher conferences, parent literacy nights, open houses, parent/teacher organization meetings, etc.

3. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this policy, including the planning, review, and improvement of this policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under 20 U.S.C. §6314(b). The District will do this by:

District and school level Title I parent and family engagement programs, activities and procedures will provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members. Each Title I served building will invite parents to attend their annual Title I meeting at which time the planning, review and improvement (if needed) of the schoolwide program plan will take place.

4. Provide parents of participating children: (a) timely information about programs under this policy; (b) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and (c) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. The District will do this by:

During each Title I served building's annual meeting, the school will provide timely information about parent involvement programs, a description and explanation of the

curriculum in use at the school (i.e., Ohio's Learning Standards, Journey's Reading Program by Houghton Mifflin, enVision 2.0 Math Program by Pearson), the forms of academic assessment used at the school (i.e., State Assessments, NWEA MAP assessments in reading and math, Learning A-Z assessments in reading and classroom assessments). This meeting will also provide parents the opportunity to offer suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.

5. If the schoolwide program plan under 20 U.S.C. §6314(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of students, the school will submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the Board. The District will do this by:

The Board will be provided with any submitted parent comments on the schoolwide program plan (if the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of students) when the school makes the plan available to the Board. This will take place after each Title I served building has the opportunity to host a Title I parent meeting to garner parent input on their schoolwide program plan.

School-Parent Compact

The Board desires for parents, the entire school staff, and students to share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The means by which the District and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the State's high standards are as follows:

1. Describe the District's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables its students to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time:

The District will provide a high quality literacy program that bonds families around reading and writing and using the public library, provide information about the essential components of reading and/or math instruction to enable parents to support the instructional practices used by the teacher, train parents, as needed, in the use of the Internet to enable them to access their children's assignments and homework; provide an environment conducive to learning; supply clear evaluations of student progress and achievement to both students and parents and collaborate with appropriate staff members, administrators and parents to assist parents as needed to provide help to their children.

Each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning by ensuring that their child attends school regularly and on time, provides a home environment that encourages learning, communicates with teachers and staff, attends parent/teacher conferences, encourages a positive attitude toward school, volunteering in their child's classroom, participate, as appropriate, in decisions related to the education of their child,

help their child in any way possible to meet his or her responsibilities and attend school events and parent meetings.

2. Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: (a) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement; (b) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress; (c) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and (d) ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand:

Communication between teachers and parents is vital to student success. We are committed to ensuring that teachers and parents communicate on an ongoing basis through multiple venues. We encourage all parents to participate in parent-teacher conferences in the elementary schools, at least annually, provide daily home/school communication through agenda books, maintain our District, building and teacher web pages with pertinent information, provide Progress Book for monitoring student work and progress at least weekly in grades 3 through 12, sending home weekly/monthly newsletters, and encourage and invite parents to volunteer in our schools. Communications, to the extent practicable, are provided in a language that family members can understand.

Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the District, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the District:

1. Shall provide assistance to parents of District students, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of 20 U.S.C. §6318, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. The District will do this by:

The District is committed to assisting parents, as appropriate, to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children by communicating with parents through parent/teacher meetings, written communication via letters, posting information to District, building and teacher websites, contacting parents and family members by phone, inviting parents into the building for literacy and/or math nights and school events, and providing Progress Book access for parents of students in grades 3 through 12 so they can access and monitor their student's academic progress.

2. Shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. The District will do this by:

The District will work with parents to improve their children’s achievement by holding parent orientation sessions for parents of incoming Kindergarten students (i.e. Kindergarten Parent Night), hosting Open House or Meet the Teacher nights in each building in the fall of each year, conducting parent workshops on specific topics during family literacy night, sending weekly/monthly newsletters and posting timely information on the District and building websites.

3. Shall educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of 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. The District will do this by:

The District will develop plans in partnership with building and District level teams at its Title I served schools to collaborate with Community Based Organizations (such as Summit Education Initiative and Summit County Educational Service Center to improve the effectiveness of professional development in the area of parent involvement.

4. Shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent 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 in more fully participating in the education of their children. The District will do this by:

The District will coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs by continuing our collaborative work with the Kindergarten Coalition partners which includes area pre-schools, the Akron Summit Community Action, Inc., Head Start, Summit Education Initiative, Summit County DD, Child Guidance, etc.; hosting a pilot Jump Start program for pre-Kindergarten students at one elementary building this fall and, ideally, multiple elementary buildings in future years; integrating parent and family engagement strategies for pre-school children.

5. Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The District will do this by:

The District will ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand by utilizing our telephone interpretation services (i.e., Cross Threads Solutions) to communicate by phone, sending written communications home to families in their primary language and providing interpreters as needed for parents.

6. Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this policy as parents may request. The District will do this by:

The District will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities by providing multiple opportunities throughout the school year for parents and family members to provide feedback, input and share their requests during a variety of venues including, but not limited to, parent/teacher conferences, parent nights, building events and programs, District meetings and public meetings.

Accessibility

In carrying out the requirements of this policy and 20 U.S.C. §6318, the District, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have 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 20 U.S.C. §6311, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents will understand.

LEGAL REF.: 20 U.S.C. §6318

Adopted: August 1, 2018