

## **Annual Evaluation of the Content and Effectiveness of the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Required for LEAs with Title I Schools)**

School System: Madison City Schools

Date Completed: 7/27/21

### ***What the law requires:***

The LEA must (1) conduct with parents an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in authorized activities; and (2) use the findings to design more effective strategies and revise the policy.

Evaluating your plan should be done with LEA and school staff as well as parents. All Title I parents should be aware that the policy is being evaluated and understand the procedure that is in place allowing them the opportunity for input. Input may be from serving as a member of the committee conducting the evaluation; completing a parent and family engagement survey; participating in parent focus groups; etc. The input, including the results of the parent involvement survey, should be used to assist in addressing the following evaluation components. **The completed evaluation should be posted to the LEA's e-GAP Document Library each year when the Consolidated Application is submitted to the SDE.**

### **What were our student achievement goals this year?**

All students will reach high standards, at a minimum attaining proficiency or better in reading and math: and where applicable, in other academic areas.

### **How did we work as partners with parents in meeting those goals?**

In the Spring of the 2020-21 school year parents completed a needs/evaluation survey in order to assist school personnel in determining which resources to purchase and what training to offer during the school year. The resources were designed to help parents, with teachers, support their children academically and strengthen the home/school connection. Parental capacity was increased by offering parenting sessions and opportunities for parents to participate in activities focusing on reading, math and effective family habits.. The school/parent compact also increased parental capacity by building partnerships with parents, as they worked with teachers, to set clear expectations for all stakeholders. The Title I TA Annual Meeting was held virtually due to state guidelines regarding COVID-19, to inform parents what it means to be a Title I TA School and their rights to be involved. Sessions were also offered on various topics including, but not limited to, academic standards and assessments. Parents were invited to serve on committees and participate in developing the school continuous improvement plans and school compacts, virtually. Communication using newsletters, calendar of events, email, Twitter, Facebook, Notify Me, Remind 101, school websites and parent conferences was intentional and strategic. Weekly folders, student growth reports and progress reports and report cards were also used to keep parents informed.

### **How can we improve with actively involving parents in the activities of our schools?**

According to the annual evaluation questionnaire as well as input from teachers and parents the following suggestions for improving parent involvement were indicated:

1. Raise parent awareness of upcoming school events in a timely manner through:

- notes/reminders of events/meetings
- calendar of events
- emails/texts were parents' choice for communication
- newsletters/websites

2. Offer flexible times/days for events/meetings and childcare as needed

3. Communicate with parents to be involved in school planning

4. Provide more opportunities for parents to volunteer

**Do we have any barriers to parent involvement that need to be addressed?**

According to the annual evaluation questionnaire as well as input from teachers and parents the following barriers were indicated:

1. Communication (more frequent updates, progress updates, and more interactions with Title I tutors)
- 2 Send reminders of meetings scheduled
3. Evening meetings/virtual meetings offered and child care provided as needed
4. EL parent participation in PTA and volunteer opportunities

\*With the current COVID-19 situation, parent engagement involvement may be adjusted based on feedback from stakeholders and current state guidelines.

**How are we ensuring the distribution of our LEA and school parent and family engagement policy to all Title I parents?**

Each school distributes the LEA Parental and Family Engagement Policy annually. There is documentation of how and when this policy is distributed in parent meeting agendas. In addition, a copy of each school's policy is posted on the school website.

**According to the annual evaluation questionnaire as well as input from teachers and parents, improvements could be made by offering the following:**

1. Offer additional and more flexible meeting times as well as virtual meetings
2. Provide parents with community services that are available
3. Continue/add parent events focusing on parent education and send reminders and calendar of events
4. Provide training based on parental needs
5. Expand parent home visiting program
6. Continue to provide resources for parents to use at home to help with skills focusing on student success
7. Provide more interaction with Title I tutors and more progress feedback
8. Provide opportunities for EL parents to participate in PTA and volunteer in school
9. Involve Title I and EL parents in planning efforts
10. Continue to use website for instructional software access

**How can we improve on training that is offered to parents: To help them work with their child at home? To help them to be active partners in LEA and school decision-making?**

The district schedules a meeting for all Title I parents in which the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is reviewed and input from parents is requested. Parents are also asked to serve on advisory committees at the district and school level. Parent surveys are reviewed and information from surveys is used to update annual plan to increase parent engagement. Guest speakers focusing on better communication amongst families and parents and school staff have been planned. Parent University Nights and Lunch and Learn Events for Title I and EL families are scheduled, focusing on strategies that assist parents in working with their children and helping them be more successful. Our system uses websites, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, newsletters, calendar of events, progress and report cards and conferences to communicate with parents and encourage involvement and knowledge of child(ren)'s progress.

**How can we improve on training that we offer school staff/teachers to help them to work more effectively with parents?**

After reviewing input from teachers and parents the following areas for improvement were identified:

1. Collaborate with other schools to ensure strong parent involvement and better communication with parents
2. Travel in the community to gain knowledge of home environments
3. Improve school climate by providing training for all staff/faculty on welcoming and working with parents

**Based on these evaluation findings, what changes do we want to make to our parent and family engagement policy for next year?**

Based on the information received during the 2020-21 school year, the LEA intends to make the following changes for the 2021-22 school year:

1. Provide opportunities for collaboration on developing stronger parental involvement with Title I and EL families
2. Assist schools in providing better communication with the Title I and EL families
3. Continue to use/revise the SDE Title I Annual Meeting PowerPoint presentation to ensure all parents are aware of their rights and the academic status of the school
4. Continue to assist schools with training of parents and teachers to enhance the home/school connection-specifically building relationships
5. Continue to assist schools with developing opportunities for EL parents to become involved and promote cultural awareness
6. Continue to assist schools in addressing identified barriers to parental involvement
7. Communicate with parents how they can be involved in school planning
8. Communicate with parents about community services that are available to them
9. Continue to provide workshops and seminars to assist parents in supporting their child(ren) academically
10. Due to the COVID-19 situation and state guidelines for schools during this pandemic, offer more video conferencing/virtual options for parents