



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

BUTTE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As authorized under ESEA, as amended

2020-2021
[Revision Date: 11/06/20]

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Overview

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough 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(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in Section 1116 of the ESEA, as amended:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. [§1118(c)(3)]
- Update the school parent and family member policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents and family members of participating children, and make the parental involvement policy available to the local community. [§1118(b)(1)]
- In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, 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 Section 1111 of the ESEA, as amended, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. [§1116(e)(4)]
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the ESEA, as amended, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the district. [§1118(c)(5)]
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 - Parent Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
 - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - 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; and
 - the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116. [§8101(39)]

Required Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

Joint Development

Butte Elementary School will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

-We will distribute the policy to parents at PTA meetings and at the annual meeting so we can get feedback from them.

-A copy will be sent home to every parent after we have gotten input from them on how to improve the policy.

-A copy will be at the front office and on the school website so that the community can access the policy.

- We will gather input from parents using surveys distributed electronically and in person on ways to improve our Title I plan.

-We will hold regular Title I meetings throughout the year where parents, staff, and stakeholders are all invited. At these meetings we will get input on what we should focus on as a school and where we should allocate Title I dollars to support those foci.

Annual Title I, Part A Meeting

Butte Elementary School will take the following actions to conduct two annual meetings, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I, Part A program, the nature of the Title I, Part A program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

We will hold our annual Title I meeting either as a part of a regular Butte Elementary Parent Teacher Association meeting or as a part of one of our Title I sponsored Family Nights. The 2020-2021 Annual Meeting took place as a in person meeting and two zoom meetings at different times. All parents were invited using flyers, newsletters, in person invitations at meetings and at school, and connect-ed phone calls made the week of the meeting.

Communications

Butte Elementary School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about Title I, Part A programs.
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- 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.
- 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.
- Information related to the school and parent and family member 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.

We provide parents with copies of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy both in person and on-line. We ask for input in the front office and at PTA meetings and family nights. We distribute a draft of the policy to parents in the beginning of second quarter and then take in any input and create a final version of the policy that we redistribute and send home to parents as well as on the school website.

We make sure that parents are aware that they can at any time request a meeting related to their children's education. We let them know in the office and at family nights that they are able to request a meeting at any time by reaching out to their child's teacher, principal, or school office.

We provide to parents and post on our website what programs we have available to students at our school. We also inform parents through classroom and school newsletters.

We have a copy of the STEPP plan in the school office for parents to review and at our annual meeting we review the information about the Title I, Part A programs. We also post this presentation on the school website.

We hold our family involvement activities on various days of the week and at various times.

School-Parent Compact

Butte Elementary School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

We will present the parent compact to the PTA and staff. Have it posted at the front office and solicit feedback from parents. We will be re-designing the compact so that it is a tri-fold hand out to make it a more approachable document for parents and families.

Reservation of Funds

The Matanuska-Susitna Borough 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 and family engagement is spent.

- Funds reserved under this section by the district agency shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the district’s parent and family engagement policy, including not less than 1 of the following:
 - (i) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for local educational agencies and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.
 - (ii) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
 - (iii) Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.
 - (iv) Collaborating, or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.
 - (v) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the local educational agency determines are appropriate and consistent with such agency’s parent and family engagement policy.

We involve parents through many different ways. We survey them both electronically and using paper surveys. We always invite parents to Title I meetings and actively solicit input from them on what we can do to improve our family involvement activities and Title I supported programs. We also support continuing professional development opportunities for our educators through webinars and conferences as well as school based training on both new and continuing programs for students and families. In addition we have information about our Title I program available in the office and on our school website so that parents can access what we are using our Title I funds to do and provide feedback on their desired direction for our programs.

Coordination

Butte Elementary School will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

Butte Elementary School will use input gathered from parents and community stakeholders to drive the parent engagement event focus, timing, and purpose. Butte Elementary school will use the support of local businesses and community organizations as partners in the facilitation of the events.

Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

Butte Elementary School will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents and family members with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Providing parents and family members materials and training to help parents to 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
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the following:
 - The challenging State academic standards.
 - The State and local academic assessments.
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - How to monitor a child's progress.
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

Our programs are explained to parents at multiple events and by teachers in newsletters and parent teacher conferences. We also make a presentation at our annual Title I meeting about what programs and assessments we use at school. We offer opportunities for parents to see and learn how our instructional and intervention programs work at their request. We make presentations and train parents on how they can access electronic intervention programs that their children are using both in school and at home.

Building Capacity of School Staff

Butte Elementary will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

Selected members of staff will attend the Multi Tiered System of Supports conference in Anchorage in January and also to the state Education

*Staff will participate in a whole school PLC with the focus on Writing Instruction. PLC includes reading *The Writing Thief* to implement consistent writing instruction throughout the grades. Staff will also analyze student writing data to reflect on instruction and develop improved and consistent writing instruction schoolwide.*

Butte Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

We will provide parents with the opportunity to request support for school related activities both on the internet and at school. If we see a need we will reach out to parents to try to provide opportunities for them.

Building Capacity for Engagement – Optional

NOTE TO THE SCHOOL: The school parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESEA, as amended:

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each Title I, Part A school–

- may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation;
- may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section; and
- may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

We are adopting models that encourage greater parent involvement by varying times, days of week, and activity foci in order to better meet the needs of student and community.

Adoption

This school parent and family member engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Hannah Peters, Christine Richey, Amy Roberts, Zoe Viola, Nikki Boozer, Taryn Bryan, Ginger Christensen, Joshua Rockey, and Margo Merrill.

This policy was adopted by the **Butte Elementary School** on **11/25/18** and will be in effect for the period of **2020-2021**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **1/15/2021**.

Joshua Rockey

Printed Name of Principal

Signature of Principal

Date

