



TEELAND MIDDLE SCHOOL SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As authorized under ESEA, as amended

[School Year 2020-21]
[Revision Date: 10.26.2020}

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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

Teeland Middle 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.

- *Initial exposure at 5th Grade Orientation Night
- *Annual TMS Open House event
- *Discuss involvement policy at Open House and other relevant family nights
- *Asking for revisions via website/newsletter/Title I meetings
- *Plan available to the community via website posting

Annual Title I, Part A Meeting

Teeland Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, 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.

The annual meeting was held on September 17, 2020 and October 26, 2020. We feel that it is important to inform our Teeland families about our Title I funds and all the great things it allows us to do.

Communications

Teeland Middle School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about Title I, Part A programs.

Teeland Middle School will hold an Annual Title I meeting. Parents are welcome and feedback is requested. The Title I plan and its requirements will be explained at this meeting. Parents will also be informed of their right to be involved in the development and revision of the Title I plan.

- 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.

Teeland Middle School will hold quarterly meetings as part of office and Leadership Team meetings, to review and develop the Title I Plan. We will make an effort to be flexible when scheduling these meetings but most of them will be held in the early evenings to accommodate parents who work.

- 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.

Our compact is introduced at the annual meeting in September where we explain the ways the school staff, parents, and students work together to increase student achievement. Parents can suggest changes and a final draft will then be created and added to the website.

- 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.

Through past surveys, TMS has learned that weekday evenings are the most convenient for most families. We combine the meeting with a fun family event and food and find that attendance increases dramatically. TMS will use more electronic means to get more engagement from our families with busy schedules and still want to provide feedback.

Curriculum information is shared annually at our Open House meeting and at 5th Grade Orientation Night. Our website also offers curriculum information that is updated each year.

Input from parents is welcome at meetings, in writing and through emails to the principal. Evaluations/feedback are also available at all Title I events and parent suggestions are collected at that time.

School-Parent Compact

Teeland Middle 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.

Compacts will be made available electronically and in paper form within the first 90 days of the start of the school year. The newly designed compacts will also be accessible all year long in our Front Office, plus made available during every school and Title I event.

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 agency 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.

Teeland Middle School strives to team with families by building relationships and improving communication. Family involvement in education is key to the academic success of each individual student. Several family events will be held each year as an opportunity to increase involvement, communication, and relational capacity with our families.

Coordination

Teeland Middle 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.

Teeland Middle School is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement for our children. Neither home, nor school, can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children, and for their school, is critical.

Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

Teeland Middle 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 work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

TMS staff, parents, and students shall work together to share the responsibility for improved academic achievement by:

***Conducting parent/teacher conferences**

***Reviewing individual child's achievement**

***Providing frequent reports to parents on their children's progress**

***Providing parents with reasonable access to staff**

***Providing parents with regular meetings to make suggestions and participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.**

Building Capacity of School Staff

Teeland Middle School 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.

All staff are trained on, and expected to provide, clear, consistent, and timely communication with families via websites, email, and direct communication. TMS is building a Social Emotional Learning program that will extend to integrating these lessons with family. All TMS staff will be participating in an SEL training on November 11, 2020 to increase proficiency in this area.

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

In an effort to provide support for parental involvement, TMS will review and adjust our family activities based on feedback received at each event. During this pandemic, our family involvement activities will be

outdoors to allow families to gather in an environment that is safer and encourages participation in healthy activities. TMS communicates these events through many sources to increase turn out and give parents an opportunity to reach out with suggestions or concerns.

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.

(Describe how each discretionary items checked above will be implemented.)

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 _____.

This policy was adopted by the **Teeland Middle School** on **October 26, 2020** and will be in effect for the period of **20-21**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **10.26.2020**

Jo Ann Hinds

Printed Name of Principal



Signature of Principal

10/27/2020

Date