



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA
BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Family Engagement Handbook For Title I Schools

Federal Programs

907-746-9239

[Title 1 Homepage](#)



Purpose

This handbook is intended to serve as a guide for Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District's Title I schools to improve their family engagement programs and meet the requirements under Title I, Part A, according to the standards of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Table of Contents

Topic	Page
MSBSD Board Mission and Vision Statement	3
School Level Family Engagement Policy	5
Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting	6
Annual Title 1 Parent Meeting Agenda	7
Parental Input on Funding Allocations	8
Involvement in Planning, Review and Improvement	9
Description of Curriculum, Evaluations, Measurements and Proficiency levels	10
School – Parent Compact	11
Reporting Achievements to Parents	12
Why partnering with Families and the Community Matter	13
Six Types of Parental Involvement	14
How is Family Engagement Funded in Title 1 Schools?	15
The Perks of PIRC's	15
Title I Compliance	15
Family Engagement Compliance Timeline for Title 1 Administrators	16



MSBSD Board Mission and Vision Statement

BP 6171 TITLE I PROGRAMS

The selection of schools to receive Title I funds and the scope of the program will depend on current federal guidelines and level of financial support. To determine Title I funding, federal law requires that a district rank all public schools in order of poverty (highest to lowest), determine which schools are eligible, and serve those schools in rank order. The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which ensure that partnerships and collaboration are established between the school and parents, families, businesses, and other community members.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish procedures which ensure that the district provides all district schools with the same level of base funding, per student, for highly qualified staff services, research based curriculum materials and instructional supplies. At the beginning of each school year, the ratio of students to teachers and auxiliary staff shall vary as little as possible from school to school. The Superintendent or designee shall maintain annual records to document this ratio and to indicate the quantity and quality of books and equipment at each school. State and local funds must be used in participating schools to provide services that, taken as a whole, are "at least comparable" to services in schools that do not participate in the Title I program.

The parents/guardians of children enrolled in Title I programs shall be involved in planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating these programs in a systematic, ongoing, informed and timely fashion. They shall have regular opportunities to make recommendations on the educational needs of their children and on ways in which they can help their children benefit from the programs. All such recommendations shall receive timely responses.

Through consultation with parents/guardians, the district shall annually assess the effectiveness of parental involvement programs and determine what action needs to be taken, if any, to increase parental participation.

When evaluating the effectiveness of Title I programs, staff shall assess individual student achievements, using data from the state's annual assessments and other indicators of academic achievement, to determine whether these students' improved performance has continued over a period of more than 12 months. The results of the evaluation will guide any necessary revision to the school-wide program plan.



Cross References:

(cf. 6190 - Evaluation of the Instructional Program)

(cf. 6000 - Concepts and Roles)

Legal References:

UNITED STATES CODE

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 6301-6514, as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (P.L. 107-110)

No Child Left Behind Act which states: "Affording parents and students meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children."

Adoption Date: 08/21/95
Revised Date: 12/04/02

BP 6020

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

The School Board recognizes parents/guardians as key stakeholders in their children's education and that they are their children's first and most influential teachers. Parental engagement in the education of children contributes greatly to student achievement and conduct. Parents/guardians can directly affect academic success by reinforcing their children's motivation and commitment to education. The district shall include parent engagement strategies and parent's role as educator as a component of instructional planning and delivery in professional development.

The Superintendent will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent engagement to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

MATANUSKA SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

Adoption Date: 08/21/95

Revised Date: 12/04/02

Revised Date: 01/19/11

Revised Date: 02/15/12 Revised Date: 01/16/19

All MSBSD Title 1 schools are required to have a school level Family Engagement Policy (formerly known as Parent Involvement Policy). Compliance guidance is below.



SCHOOL LEVEL PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

Statute/Regulation 1118(b)(1)

Each **school** served under this part shall **jointly develop** with, and **distribute** to, parents of students in Title I programs a written parent involvement policy, **agreed upon** by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of subsections (c) through (f) of Section 1118. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an **understandable and uniform format** and, to the extent practical, provided in a **language the parents can understand**. Such policy shall be **made available to the local community** and **updated annually** to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

To Meet Compliance:

- Each school must jointly develop, with parents of students in Title I programs, a Family Engagement Policy. The policy must be agreed upon by parents.
- The policy must be written in a language and format that the parents can understand.
- The policy must be made available to the local community.
- The policy must be updated annually to meet the needs of the parents and school.

Evidence/Documentation

- School-level Family Engagement Policy
- Documentation describing how parents were involved in reviewing and revising the Family Engagement Policy
- Documentation on how schools advertised the opportunity for parents to provide input
- Evidence that the policy is updated annually



ANNUAL TITLE I PARENT MEETING ***Statute/Regulation 1118(c)(1)(2)***

An **annual meeting** is held at each Title I school at **a convenient time**, where all parents of participating Title I students are invited and **encouraged to attend**, to inform parents of their school's Title I plan, explain the requirements of the Title I program, and inform parents of their right to be involved in the school improvement plan. The school must offer a **flexible number of meetings**, such as in the morning or evening, and may also provide transportation, childcare, or home visits with Title I funds.

To Meet Compliance:

- The school must hold an annual Title I meeting for parents of participating Title I students.
- Parents must be invited and encouraged to attend.
- During the meeting, the school must inform the parents about the Title I plan and explain the Title I requirements.
- During the meeting, parents must be informed of their right to be involved in the school improvement plan.
- During the meeting, parents must be informed of their options of school choice, if applicable.
- Multiple meetings are held.
- Meetings are held at flexible times.
- Title I funds are used to provide transportation, childcare and home visits if needed.

Evidence/Documentation

- Sign in sheets for each Annual Meeting
- Communication to parents and families about the Annual Meeting (The communication must offer options for at least two different meeting dates and times. Meetings can be offered in person and/or via Zoom.)
- Evidence that parents were informed of the Title I plan and Title I requirements, their options of school choice, as well as their rights to be involved in the school. (PowerPoint, minutes, notes, or agenda)
- Annual Meeting Summary for Annual Meeting



Title I Annual Meeting Agenda (bold headings indicate topics needed to be discussed for compliance)

- Introduction of Title I faculty and staff
- **Give an overview of what Title I is and the requirements of the Title I School-wide Program**
 - How funds will be used
 - Family engagement funds
 - How school-wide plan will be assessed for effectiveness
- **Discuss the school's previous year's progress**
- **Explain what participation in a Title I Program means, including:**
 - Description and explanation of curriculum and programs
 - How to access Title I Plan on the school website
 - Information on forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress in a language parents can understand
 - A timeline for when parents will be informed of their child's progress
 - Information on the proficiency levels students are expected to meet
 - SES opportunities (if applicable)
- **Explain Family Engagement Policies**
 - District Family Engagement Policy
 - School Family Engagement Policy
 - Parent –School Compact
- **Opportunities for parents to participate**
 - Being a part of the Title I accountability team
 - Helping make decisions and plan on parent engagement funding uses and events
 - Volunteering in the school
- **Parents Rights**
 - Right to request regular meetings with staff in order to make suggestions
 - Participate in decisions relating to the education of their child
 - Request the qualifications of their child's teacher
 - Submit a written comment on the school-wide program plan when made available to parents to view
- Important dates and how to contact staff



PARENTAL INPUT ON FUNDING ALLOCATIONS ***Statute/Regulation 1118 (a)(3)(B)***

Parents of children receiving Title I services are **involved in the decisions** regarding how reserved funds are allotted for parent involvement activities.

To Meet Compliance:

The LEA must include parents of students in Title I programs in the decision of how the funds are allotted for family engagement activities.

Evidence/Documentation

Documentation of inviting parents to join a leadership team, e.g., email, Facebook, newsletter or personal contacts

Sign-in sheet

Agenda



INVOLVEMENT IN PLANNING, REVIEW, AND IMPROVEMENT

Statute/regulations 1118 (c)(3); 1114 (b)(2)(B)

The school involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I programs. This includes:

- ❖ The school-level Family Engagement Policy; and
- ❖ The joint development of the school-wide program plan.

To Meet Compliance:

- Parents must be involved in the development of the school-level Family Engagement Policy.
- Parents must be involved in the development of the school-wide Title I plan.
- The parent engagement policy must state that parents were included in its development.
- Discuss the above at the Annual Title I meeting.

Evidence/Documentation

- Evidence that parents were involved in the development of BOTH documents (e.g. agendas, letters, sign-in sheets, meeting minutes).
- Annual Meeting Summary



DESCRIPTION OF CURRICULUM, EVALUATIONS, MEASUREMENTS, AND PROFICIENCY LEVELS *Statute/Regulation 1118(c)(4)(B)*

Each Title I school must provide parents with a **description and explanation** of the **curriculum** in use at the school, the forms of **academic assessment used** to measure student progress, and the **proficiency levels** students are expected to meet.

To Meet Compliance:

- The school must provide parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum.
- The school must provide parents with a description and explanation of academic assessments used to measure student progress.
- The school must provide parents with a description and explanation of the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.

Evidence/Documentation

- Documentation that parents were given explanations for the items above (e.g. letters, print materials, emails, meeting agendas, agenda for Annual Meeting, etc.).



SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT **Statute/Regulation 1118 (d)(1)(2)**

Each Title I school must **jointly develop** with parents of all children served under Title I 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 proficiency on the Alaska State Standards. The school-parent-compact describes the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the State's student academic achievement standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning, such as monitoring attendance, homework completion, and television watching; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of extracurricular time. The school-parent compact addresses the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum;

- ❖ parent-teacher conferences at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
- ❖ frequent reports to parents on their child's progress; and
- ❖ reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities.

To Meet Compliance:

- The school must have a school-parent compact.
- The compact must be developed jointly with parents of students in Title I programs.
- The compact must outline how parents, school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.
- The school-parent compact is the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve state standards.
- The school-parent compact must describe the following:
 - The school's responsibility to provide high quality curriculum and instruction.
 - The school's responsibility to provide a supportive and effective learning environment.
 - The ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their child's learning.
 - A description of how the school addresses the importance of communication between teachers, staff and parents.

Evidence/Documentation

- A copy of the school-parent compact meeting the criteria above
- Evidence that compact was developed jointly with parents and reviewed annually (e.g. meeting agendas, meeting minutes, sign-in sheets, correspondence.).



REPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS TO PARENTS **Statute/Regulation 1118(c)(4)**

Parents of Title I students should receive timely information about the Title I programs at their child's school. This timely information should also include a report toward the progress of achieving the goals stated in the Title I Plan and

documentation of how these results and information were shared by goal teams with parents, the community, Accountability team and other staff.

To Meet Compliance:

- The school must provide parents with timely information about Title I programs.

Evidence/Documentation

- Documentation that parents were given information about the progress toward the achievement of goals stated in the Title I Plan (e.g. newsletters, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets, emails, web pages)

Why Partnering with Families and the Community Matter



Current research resoundingly states the benefits for student achievement when schools partner with families and the community. A recent report published by the [Harvard Family Research Project, www.hfrp.org](http://www.hfrp.org), cites that despite the findings of studies, educators still tend to treat parents and families as bystanders rather than as partners in the education of students.

Partnering with families and the community yields great benefits for students, parents, and for schools.

Family engagement in schools has been shown to contribute to student success in the following ways:

- improved students achievement as seen through increased math and reading scores
- increased motivation on the part of the student to do better in school
- improved attendance and an increased graduation rate
- better behavior both at school and at home
- improvement in a student's social skills and adaptation to school

Being engaged in the school community also provides rewards for parents:

- an opportunity to closely monitor their child's performance and address any school difficulties is more readily available
- better relationships and communication with their child's teacher are established
- having a voice in decisions that enhance the academic environment and improve their child's educational experience

There are also advantages for schools as well:

- immediate access to parents to gain and increase their support
- improved teacher morale
- approval of teachers and a more well-regarded reputation of the school within the community
- allies that will provide community-wide support for educational excellence
- willingness to work to better the school



The National Network of Partnership Schools, Johns Hopkins University, and Dr. Joyce Epstein identified multiple measures of parent involvement. A framework of six types of parent involvement that schools can employ evolved from her findings. www.csos.jhu.edu/p2000/sixtypes.htm

Six Types of Parent Involvement

Parenting. Assist families with parenting and child-rearing skills. Assist schools in understanding families.

Communicating. Communicate with families about school programs and student progress.

Volunteering. Improve recruitment, training, tasks, and schedules to involve families as volunteers.

Learning at Home. Involve families with their children in learning activities at home.

Decision Making. Include families as participants in school decisions.

Collaborating With the Community. Coordinate community, business, and agency resources and services for families.

These types of parental involvement can be used to create a systematic plan and approach for increasing family engagement. Parents can be the greatest asset in student achievement. Working to develop partnerships with families and the community will yield stronger, higher achieving schools. In the charts that follow, Dr. Epstein provided sample practices schools can employ to engage families in each type of involvement as well as results for students, parents, and educators from participating in family engagement.



How is Family Engagement Funded in Title I Schools?

Commitment to family engagement in learning has been present in several federal programs and pieces of legislation since the 1960s. Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) requires school districts to spend 1% of their Title I funds on family engagement activities. Title I requires School Action Plans to show provisions for family engagement.

Schools do many different activities and gather informal (through conversations, observations, etc.) and formal survey feedback for all events to assist in determining family engagement needs. Title I schools in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough School District are required to have, at minimum, three family engagement activities each school year. Schools submit all documentation paperwork electronically.



The Perks of PIRCs (Parent Information and Resource Centers)

Federal funds allow non-profit organizations in states to financially support a Parent Information and Resource Center, or PIRC. The PIRC connects families, teachers, and school administrators in their efforts to work together to enhance academic achievement of all students. Our Alaska PIRC provides downloadable resources for family engagement and professional development opportunities to help accomplish this goal. Visit Alaska's PIRC at www.akpirc.org.



Title I Compliance

To further illustrate the importance of family engagement in our schools, Title I law has included regulations that ensure the inclusion of our parents and community in decision-making and opportunities for participation. The following pages provide the compliance pieces that schools must complete as a recipient of Title I funds. These compliance pieces break down the necessary components of family engagement that are taking place in our Title I schools each year. Included on each compliance page is an explanation of the regulation, what should be done to meet compliance, and a list of supporting evidence and documentation that will be submitted to the Federal Programs Department.



Family Engagement Compliance Timeline for Title I Administrators

Task	Due Date
Ongoing throughout the year	
Hold a minimum of three Title I family engagement events	By end of school year
Description of curriculum, assessments and proficiency levels to parents	At Minimum - During Annual Meeting, PT Conferences
Parent input on funding and planning	At Minimum - Prior to Title I Plan Approval (Fall) During Title I Plan Revision (Spring)
September	
Distribute Parent Right to Know Letter (notify parents of their right to know teacher and paraprofessional qualifications)	September 10, 2021
October	
Updated Title I plan is accessible to the community. A hard copy is in the front office and parents have been given guest passwords to view on the school website.	October 8, 2021
Hold at least two Annual Title I meetings (no later than this date)	October 29, 2021
November	
Family Engagement Policy revised with families, distributed, and in use (policy needs to be accessible)	November 1, 2021
Parent-School Compact revised with families, distributed, and in place.	November 1, 2021

We prepare all students for success