

DISTRICT-LEVEL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Dickinson Public School District, which receives Title I, Part A funds must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating students a written District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy that contains information required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

Definitions

This policy defines the following:

- *Parent* means a biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stands in loco parentis to the student.
- *Parental involvement* means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - a. Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - b. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - c. 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
 - d. Other activities are carried out, such as those described in ESSA.
- *Family/family members* are adults living in a student's household who are related to the student and/or adult relatives living outside the student's household who, based on a school administrator's knowledge, play a direct and active role in the student's education (e.g., volunteer in school, attend school meetings).

District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy Requirements

Dickinson Public School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in law:

1. Put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures must be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
2. Work with its schools to ensure that the required School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy meets the Title I, Part A requirements, and includes as a component, a school-parent compact.
3. Incorporate this District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its district plan.

4. Provide, to the extent practicable, full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory students, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
5. If the district plan for Title I, Part A is not satisfactory to the parents of participating students, the District shall submit any parent comments with the plan when the district submits the plan to Department of Public Instruction.

Required District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

The District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy includes a description of how the district may implement or accomplish each of the following components:

1. **Joint Development**

Dickinson Public School District shall take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district plan, and in the development and review of support and improvement plans:

The Parent Advisory Councils in Title I schools will be involved in the development and periodic review of the School-Level and District-Level Parental and Family Engagement Policies. Parents will also provide input through parent surveys and participation in school committees.

2. **Annual Evaluation**

Dickinson Public School District shall take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation must include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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). The evaluation must also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The District may use the findings of the evaluation about its District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its District-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Evaluation of the parental involvement policy will be ongoing through verbal and written parent feedback from evaluations following parent involvement activities, parent surveys and parent feedback from Annual Review and School-wide Planning Meetings.

3. **Reservation of Funds (only applicable to districts with Title I, Part A allocations of \$500,000 or more)**

If applicable, Dickinson Public School District shall involve the parents and family members of students served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

A survey is conducted during the annual review process. The survey includes informing parents that 1% of the Title I allocation is set aside for parent involvement activities through West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center. This survey provides parents with the opportunity to indicate whether or not they are in agreement with how the district is using these funds and an opportunity to provide suggestions / comments. West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center also has parent evaluations completed after all sessions and seeks suggestions from parents for planning purposes.

4. **Coordination of Services**

Dickinson Public School District shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as: West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center, Community Action Head Start, and the Regional After School Program (RASP) that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by: providing activities that support parents and students as students transition from primary to elementary and elementary to secondary, homework support and enrichment activities, parent night, parent volunteer opportunities, and opportunities to participate in parenting classes.

In addition, through Community Partnerships, the district and/or the district's parent center, the West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center, seek information for parents or refer parents to other local programs, such as Southwest District Health Unit, the Key Infant Development Program, Community Action Head Start/Early Head Start, Sunrise Youth Bureau, the Regional After School Program, Adult Learning Center, local United Way, Stark County Social Services and other social service agencies as needed, Badlands Human Services, and area extension offices.

Building Capacity of Parents

Dickinson Public School District shall, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build the parents' capacity for strong parent involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their

children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- a. The challenging State academic standards;
- b. The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- c. The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- d. How to monitor their child's progress; and
- e. How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.

Information will be provided to parents through the school and district online dashboard, school district profile information, individual student achievement results, parental access to Power School, school district websites, school newsletters, the West Dakota Parent and Family Newsletter, parent/teacher conferences, and annual notice of the "Parents Right to Know".

5. Building Capacity of School Staff

Dickinson Public School District shall, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff 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 schools by:

District staff will be educated through building level communication, distribution of school and West Dakota Parent and Family Newsletters, access to parent resources and district-wide training opportunities.

Training is available for school personnel through West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center focusing on working with parents and building relationships. The training will provide strategies in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.

Policy Adoption and Dissemination

This policy will be in effect until revised through parent involvement and board action. Dickinson Public School District shall distribute this policy annually to all parents of participating Title I, Part A students through the school's website or distribution of hard copies as requested by parents.

- FDC, Education of Migrant Students
- GABAA, English Language Learners
- KAB-E, School/Parent Compact Requirements

End of Dickinson School District #1 Policy KAB..... Amended: 12/12/11