

Anderson School District Two Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2017–2018
Revised June 2017



What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) 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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Anderson School District Two has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe ASD2's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy

school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, ASD2 will work as a Title I school district to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

During district meetings held throughout the year, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2017-2018 school year. During meetings, parents also had the opportunity to review and discuss the Title I plan.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the Title I plan which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time by emailing lmajor@asd2.org or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites and included in the school registration packet online.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator will provide assistance and support to all ASD2 Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the coordinator to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the coordinator will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals to review family engagement plans and activities.


Additionally, the Title I Director will meet regularly with principals and the coordinator to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for throughout the school year.

Reservation of Funds

ASD2 will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY18 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the ASD2 will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will continue to request feedback from parents and families annual to provide suggestions as to how these family engagement funds can be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.





Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

District Title I Meetings – 12/3/17, 2/7/18 and 4/18/18

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year.

School Title I Meetings will be held in the spring of 2018. During this time, each Title I school will host a meeting for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will notify and post informing parents and families about the date and time of the meeting.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please email Lana Major lmajor@asd2.org with your comments or feedback.

Building Capacity

ASD2 will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through districtwide activities and programs such as District Advisory Council, School Council, PTO, etc.

Of Parents – ASD2 will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. ASD2 will provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for SC students including alternative forms of assessments. Please contact your school for more information.

ASD2 will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and Materials to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish as needed.

ASD2 has established a districtwide Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives and community members to provide advice on all matters related to school operations and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners.

ASD2 will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities.

Of School Staff – ASD2 will conduct monthly meetings during the school year with principals. This will provide the opportunity for coordination of staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, council meetings, and activities is available to all parents, the district will also utilize school phone call systems, social media, district and school websites, local news media, emails, etc. to keep parents informed.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, ASD2 will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will post a link to a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs.

In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the school level Title I meetings to facilitate group discussions involving the needs of parents and their children receiving Title I services. In addition, design strategies for more effective family engagement.

ASD2 will use the findings from the school meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Instructional Support Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

