



Anderson School District Two Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan

Revised (June 2017)

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Anderson School District Two 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the South Carolina Department of Education.

Anderson School District Two agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will 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 will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents/families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents/families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents/families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) Parents/families 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA

Anderson School District Two will implement the following actions to involve parents/family in the joint development of its districtwide parental engagement plan under;

- Host a parent/family feedback meeting annually for all parents/family members to participate in the analysis of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to discuss the plan's effectiveness in meeting the needs of the students and requirements of the Title I Program.
- Distribute parent/family feedback forms to all parents/families of students enrolled in Title I schools to involve parents/families in the development of this policy, the district plan, and use of parent involvement funds.
- Provide parents/families access to the information in the districts Parent and Family Engagement Plan through open communication about the plan during parent meetings, such as the following:
 - o Annual Title I Public Meeting
 - o School Advisory Council Meetings
 - o Open House
 - o Parent Workshops
 - o Parent Conferences

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Anderson School District Two will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Provide parent access to each school's Title I plan, budget, compact, parent and family engagement policy/plan. A stakeholder feedback form will also be provided to facilitate parent involvement in the development of these documents and in the expenditure of funds. Hold an annual meeting for parents/families of students in the Title I program to discuss the review and implementation of the Title I plan and how Title I funds for the program and for parent involvement activities will be used.
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- Distribute an annual survey to all parents/families of children enrolled in Title I schools to involve parents in the process of design, review, and improvement of the Title I program.
- Review the effectiveness of the actions and activities the schools are carrying out under this part with respect to parental involvement, for professional development, and other activities and provide opportunity for all parent/family input throughout the year in multiple ways.
- Annually involve parents/families and stakeholders in Comprehensive Needs Assessment process.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Anderson School District Two will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Employ a system-wide Parent/ Family Engagement Coordinator that provides support to assist in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement. An important responsibility of the system Parent/ Family Engagement Coordinator is to join forces with each school's personnel as well as the community agencies to nurture a supportive spirit among schools, parents, and the community.
- Employ a Title I Director that provides guidance and support to administrators and the Parental/ Family Engagement Coordinator through emails, telephone calls, meetings, etc.
- Review school parent and family engagement policy/plan to ensure compliance, including documentation from parent meetings showing it was developed jointly with parent input.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Anderson School District Two will 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 parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will 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 will 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- Parent meetings (Annual Title I Meeting)

- Feedback from focus groups
- Surveys (take-home, mailed, electronic)
- Offer a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education
- Publicize (website, school messenger, flyers, social media etc.) all activities in multiple ways to ensure families are informed.
- Provide assistance to schools throughout year as needed

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Anderson School District Two will involve the parents and family members of children 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. Parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools will be involved in the following ways:

- Annual Title 1 Informational Meetings
- BOE budget sessions and Meetings
- Parent/ Stakeholder surveys (take-home, mailed, and electronic)
- Participation in annual review process

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Anderson School District Two will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: Head Start and State operated preschool programs by that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Collaborating with external early education programs to develop an effective program that prepares young learners for grade school and parents for school transition.
- Coordinating with early educational programs to invite families and preschool children into the schools to take a tour and participate in planned activities.
- Active participant in all First Steps meetings and projects.
- Collaborating and forming a relationship with Public Library.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Anderson School District Two will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) 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:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A

- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators
 - All Title I schools will host parent meeting/workshops/classes that will be held at different times during the day to accommodate family needs.
 - Send home information via written correspondence, phone messenger, take-home folders, in planners, etc.
 - Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
 - Post information on websites and social media
 - Using multiple sources to keep parents informed
 - Hosting parent/family workshops that promote literacy training
 - Providing take-home learning materials that provide tips and ideas for helping children in core subject areas
 - Hosting parent meetings for parents to provide feedback regarding the best practices for communication
 - Disseminating a parent survey annually requesting input about effectiveness of the parenting program

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Anderson School District Two will, 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:

- Title I Director and the Title I Family Engagement Coordinator will attend Title I meetings, listen to Webinars and attend training/conferences to stay up to date with Title I requirements and help ensure parents are provided with tool to aid in learning at home
- Providing adequate Professional Development for school staff/parent involvement on a yearly basis to address a variety of topics that may include but are not limited to the following
 - Communicating with Parents
 - Including parents in homework process, the basis of parent involvement/engagement, promoting cultural competency

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Anderson School District Two will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, home instructional programs, programs to build parent capacity, public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, that encourage and support parents/families in more fully participating in the education of their children by

- coordinating parent involvement efforts to have a greater impact on the community
- coordinating the use of parent resources (technology, books, supplies)

Anderson School District Two will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent 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:

- Provide written communications in a language parents can understand as needed
- Share with parents the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities
- Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with families who are unable to attend those conferences at school when necessary and feasible
- Establishing a districtwide parent/stakeholder advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities through the advisory council.

Policy Involvement:

- Parents will be involved in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review and improvement of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy through annual meetings, conferences, workshops and parent/stakeholder advisory council.
- An annual meeting will be held to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title I program and to explain the requirements of the program and their right to be involved.
- Parent meetings, including parent conferences, will be held at different times during the day.
- Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit expenses to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program through annual meetings, conferences, workshops and parent/stakeholder advisory council.
- The school involves parents in the joint development of the Schoolwide Program Plan under Section 1114. *Applies only to Title I schools operating a Schoolwide Program.*
- The school will provide parents of participating children with timely information about the Title I program through the annual meeting, conferences, workshops, newsletters, school messenger, social media, etc.
- The school will provide parents of participating children 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 achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards through the school website, conferences, workshops, newsletters, etc.
- The school will provide, 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.

Accessibility:

The school provides 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 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement (School-Parent Compact):

A school-parent compact was jointly developed with parents and the compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.

- a) 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 to meet the challenging State academic standards and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time.
- b) The school-parent compact addresses the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum –
 - Parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, 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 children's progress;
 - Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
 - Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

The parental Involvement policy was written with parents, school personnel, and community members. All stakeholders were informed of system-wide parent meetings by advertisement at the school level through school messenger, newsletters, conferences, workshops, meetings, etc.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by the Anderson School District Two July 2017 and will be in effect for the period of the 2017-2018 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2017.

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