

**Atlantic City Schools Title I
2017-2018
District Wide Parental and Family Engagement Policy**

Purpose

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each local educational agency (LEA or school district) that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district wide parental and family engagement policy). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations for parental and family engagement, and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA).

Mission & Vision Statement

Mission – In order to meet the needs of all students, the District is committed to increasing student learning and improving teaching in the core academic subjects by using instructional strategies aligned with the Common Core State Standards and based on Scientifically Based Research. Parents will be active partners and key stakeholders with the Atlantic City School District to support their student's intellectual, emotional, physical and social growth.

Vision – The Atlantic City District recognizes the urgency to provide resources to improve instruction through exemplary and diverse practices which are monitored and analyzed through student achievement data. The District has the expectation that all students will achieve the Common Core State Standards at all grade levels.

Part I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Atlantic City School District (the "school district") agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental and family engagement policies meet the

requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental 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, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, 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 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, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental and family engagement means the participation of parents and families 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 at school;

(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 1118 of the ESEA.

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parent Resource Centers in the State.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The **Atlantic City School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental and family engagement policy plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Present parental and family engagement plan overview purpose, vision and mission at Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings throughout the district
 - Request input from parents on parental and family engagement plan narrative
 - Host a public forum during Parent Advisory Council meetings throughout the district
 - Incorporate parental input in proposed parental involvement plan
 - Adopt parental involvement plan at District Parent Advisory Council meeting
2. The **Atlantic City School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Annual review of parental and family engagement policy
 - Administer parent surveys, requesting input and/or improvements to parental and family engagement policy
 - Incorporate input and/or improvements in newly proposed parental and family engagement policy
 - Adopt revised parental and family engagement policy at annual District Parent Advisory Council meeting
3. The **Atlantic City School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
 - Develop parental and family engagement programs in each school
 - Provide flexible training opportunities for parent and family engagement
 - Attend parent-teacher conferences, Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and District Parent Advisory Council meetings regularly
 - Coordinate parental and family engagement training activities in each school to focus on parental needs and student achievement
 - Distribute parental and family engagement information in appropriate languages based on school demographics
4. The **Atlantic City School District** will coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

- Active Fathers Program
 - Preschool & Kindergarten Orientation Program
 - Middle School Orientation Program
 - NJ SNAP-Ed Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
 - Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies of Southern New Jersey Program
5. The **Atlantic City School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental and family engagement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental and family engagement policies.
- Distribute parental and family engagement policy (annually) in appropriate languages based on school demographics.
 - Conduct annual review of parental and family engagement policy.
 - Assess and evaluate implementation of programs in accordance with parent and family engagement policy.
 - Conduct independent parent and staff surveys, requesting input and/or improvements to parental and family engagement policy.
 - Incorporate input and/or improvements in newly proposed parental and family engagement policy.
 - Adopt revised parental and family engagement policy at annual District Parent Advisory Council meeting.
6. The **Atlantic City School District** will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
- Build administrative/staff trust, openness, commitment and an understanding of the potential benefits to the student
 - Ensure accuracy and timely feedback between home and school

- Host workshops, provide access to various technologies, distribution of written material on special learning needs and on test preparation, classification/504 process, gifted and enrichment opportunities
 - Parent-teacher conferences, access to parent portal providing online access to academic progress, attendance, and behavior
 - Distribute student handbook, policies and procedures in appropriate languages based on school demographics
 - Provide parents and students access to homework and website and on-line tutoring assistance
- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental and family engagement, by:
- Providing year-round adults education classes available to all parents/families
 - Adult Education Classes Include: Driver's Education, English as a Second Language, Computer Education, U.S. Citizenship, Sign Language, Quilting, GED (English, Math, Science, and Social Studies)
 - Provide a grandparent support program (Grandparents As Parents Program), for parenting grandparents and other relatives who are raising children
 - Education sessions are provided to advance their knowledge and to link participants to community services and health agencies to help their families survive and thrive.
 - Provide parent and family workshops/activities
 - Educational workshops and activities held at Parent Resource Centers on various topics concerning parent and family engagement, academic success, health and wellness
 - District and School Parent Advisory Council Meetings
 - Programs servicing parents with special needs
 - Adult and family piano lessons
 - Host special community based projects/programs for students and parents/families
 - Back-To-School Event
 - Black History Exhibition & Program
 - Community clothes drive and give-away
 - Family Music Program
 - Youth Conferences
 - College Tours
 - SAT/ACT Prep
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to increase parental and family engagement
 - Implement teacher and administration in-service workshops on how to work with parents effectively
 - Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate family engagement programs and various activities which encourage and support the needs of all schools by:
- Providing parent and family workshops/activities on various topic concerning parental and family engagement, academic success, health and wellness, including early education readiness programs.
- E. The school district 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:
- Parents are welcomed in all buildings and classrooms (open door policy)
 - Distribute parent/family information in appropriate languages based on school demographics.
 - Hold meetings at times convenient for parents.
 - Provide parents/families with a monthly newsletter highlighting past programs and informing of upcoming and/or on-going programs.
 - Advertise in The Press of Atlantic City.
 - Utilize a district-wide robo-call system (voice recording) to inform parents/families about upcoming activities/programs, school closings, and/or other important school related information.
 - Utilize a Title I Parent Information webpage to inform parents/families about upcoming activities/programs.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT

Parental and Family Engagement is one of the key elements for successful schools. The **Atlantic City School District**, through the resources of the Parent Resource Centers, is committed to be a source for strengthening the ties between home and school. The **Atlantic City School District** and Parent Resource Centers are committed to:

- Supporting families by providing a comfortable environment within the school setting where parents/families can growth with each other and interact positively with the school

- Providing material and human resources for parents/families
- Providing parenting workshops and specific meetings/forum on topics requested by parents/families
- Encouraging home/school partnerships and molding positive attitudes
- Encouraging and emphasizing parental and family engagement in school activities, volunteers are needed and are welcomed
- Providing specific ways by which parents/caregivers can help their children academically
- Providing information and fostering programs that emphasize the importance of continuing education for adults

The **Atlantic City School District** will strive toward meeting these commitments by:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents;
- Provide transportation and child care services, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- 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 parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental and family engagement;
- Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental and family engagement activities; and
- Encourage community partners to allow their parent-employees to participate in school activities
- Providing other reasonable support for parental and family engagement activities under section 1118 as parents may request

The **Atlantic City School District** will collaborate with the community to meet these commitments by:

- Partnering with and establishing relationships with community resources, local businesses, colleges, community organizations and agencies to help them become aware of what is happening in schools
- Developing partnerships where students can enrich classroom learning experiences, extend learning beyond the classroom through service learning opportunities, internships and other similar experiences for students, ultimately becoming high quality employees for businesses
- Employers can adopt flexible work schedules and time off so that employees might attend school functions and support school programs
- Employers can hold parent meetings or parenting workshops on-site

- Provide parents with a directory of social and community services and resources, as well as establishing a referral system
- Reward and recognize supportive community members, businesses, and organizations

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This policy was adopted by the Atlantic City School District on July 18, 2017 and will be in effect for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 2, 2017.


LEA/Title I Coordinator

7/19/17
(Date)