

StrengthBuilding Partners Family/Community Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

StrengthBuilding Partners agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents 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 Family/Community 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 Family/Community Engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A Family/Community 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 Family/Community 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 Family/Community Engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Family/Community Engagement means the participation of parents 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.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. StrengthBuilding Partners will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide Family/Community Engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Invite parents to participate in the School Improvement Process by being a part of the School Improvement Team
 - Post the Family/Community Engagement Plan on the website with the opportunity to provide feedback.
2. StrengthBuilding Partners will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Invite parents to participate in the School Improvement Process by being a part of the School Improvement Team
 - Annual Title I meeting where all aspects of the plan are discussed. Feedback is encouraged from all stakeholders.
3. StrengthBuilding Partners will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective Family/Community Engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - As a small one school district, district and school personnel work in both capacities to develop, implement, and review Family/Community Engagement activities
 - Through the LIAP funding is put aside for Family/Community Engagement
 - The School Board is invited to and attend Family/Community Engagement activities, and are given reports of effectiveness after events.
4. StrengthBuilding Partners will coordinate and integrate Family/Community Engagement strategies in Part A with Family/Community Engagement strategies under the following other programs: Las Puertas Community School Learning Center and Las Puertas Community School After-School Program by:
 - As a small one school district, district and school personnel work in both capacities to develop, implement, and review Family/Community Engagement activities within these programs
 - Funding and supplies for Family/Community Engagement within these programs

5. StrengthBuilding Partners take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Family/Community 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 Family/Community 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 Family/Community Engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective Family/Community Engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its Family/Community Engagement policies.

- Parents are invited to take part in the review and evaluation of the Family/Community Engagement Policy
- Evaluation will take place in the final month of the school year (June)
- Evaluation will be conducted by a district representative and a school administrator.
- Components of the Policy will be reviewed and participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions for changes.
- Family/Community Engagement activities and events will be reviewed and participants will have the opportunity to provide feedback and suggestions for changes.

6. StrengthBuilding Partners will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong Family/Community 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 --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

Activities that address the above include but are not limited to:

- Annual presentations to parents and community on Title I programs
- Annual presentation to parents and community on Benchmark progress and state assessment results

- Literature is given to parents at Parent/Teacher conferences and community events that discuss strategies for helping students with attendance and Growth Mindset
- 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 Family/Community Engagement, by:
- Literature is given to parents at Parent/Teacher conferences and community events that discuss strategies for helping students with attendance and Growth Mindset
 - Parents will have opportunities to use technology resources in the learning center and also during the after-school program
- 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:
- As a small one school district, district and school personnel work in both capacities to increase communication with parents and families
 - District and school personnel work in both capacities to plan events and call families to promote events, call for parent/teacher conferences, and communicate about important school activities.
 - Seek input from school staff on how to have a more effective parent night that meaningfully involves parents and builds relationships instead of just disseminating class information.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate Family/Community Engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- District would support any programs of this nature, but because of the small size of our single school district personnel working in both capacities reach out to individual families in need to help provide the individual services they require
 - Personnel working in a district and school level capacities help families get enrolled in programs related to their individual needs.
- 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:

- Monthly newsletters provide information
- Information is posted on the website
- Social media is used to inform of school events
- Staff make calls to parents about parent/teacher conferences and all other community events and activities. Callers are made available in the language preferred by the family.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- in order to maximize Family/Community 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 parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving Family/Community Engagement;
- providing other reasonable support for Family/Community Engagement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This policy was adopted by the StrengthBuilding Partners on 3/16/22 and will be in effect for the period of 1 year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before March 25th, 2022.



(Signature of Authorized Official)

3/16/22

(Date)