

## Hays CISD Parent and Family Engagement Policy

### LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy: ESSA Section 1116

**2023-2024**

1. Hays CISD will reach out to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs consistent with the requirements of ESSA Section 1116. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. Section 1116 (a)(1)

Hays CISD will use “Hey Hays!” on its website to give all parents and community members a method to provide feedback, ask questions, and find multiple ways to connect with district and campus staff. Hays CISD also used the annual K-12 Survey to gather input and feedback from parents and family members. Hays CISD uses the District Leadership Team (DLT), a district-level site-based decision-making committee that includes district staff, parents, community members, and business leaders, to provide additional input related to parent and family engagement. Feedback shall be considered as decisions are made regarding programs, activities, and procedures.

2. Hays CISD receives Title I, Part A funds. Our goal is to plan and implement effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Therefore, Hays CISD will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy. Section 1116 (a)(2)
  - . The policy shall be incorporated into the local educational agency’s plan developed under section 1112 (District Improvement Plan, DIP),
    - a. The policy will establish the LEA’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.

The PFE policy shall be reviewed each spring by the District Leadership Team (DLT) which is comprised of stakeholders representing campus staff and administrators, district-level staff, parents, and community members. The policy will be posted on the website in English and Spanish.

3. Hays CISD will: involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan (DIP) under section 1112 and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d). Section 1116 (a)(2)(A)

The DIP will be reviewed annually. Parents involved in the DLT will be directly involved in the review and input process. Following each DLT meeting, the minutes of the meeting and any items shared shall be posted to the Hays CISD website for review by the public. Any person wishing to give input on items discussed by the DLT can contact the Director of Federal Programs, Stephanie Norris, and this feedback will be shared with the appropriate departments for consideration.

4. Hays CISD will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency, 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. Section 1116 (a)(2)(B)

The Director of Federal Programs and the District Academic Officers work closely with campus administrators to provide support and capacity building so that all campuses can implement effective parent and family engagement activities. The Director of Federal Programs will support campuses in working with community organizations and businesses that may be able to assist in increasing parent engagement.

5. Hays CISD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, including public preschool 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; Section 1116 (a)(2)(C) and Section 1116 (e)(4)

Hays CISD will continue to collaborate with Head Start, Community Action, Hays Hope to Go, St. Vincent De Paul, and the Hays County Homeless Coalition. By working with community agencies, Hays CISD can connect families with resources to meet their needs. The Multilingual department will continue to partner with Community Action to provide the El Civics program to Spanish-speaking parents who desire to increase their English Literacy skills. The Federal Programs - MKV office will work closely with the Counseling Department to support trauma informed mental health and parenting outreach opportunities to increase family coping and support skills.

6. Hays CISD will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—Section 1116 (a)(2)(D)
  - . barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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);
  - a. the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and

- b. strategies to support successful school and family interactions;

Each spring, Hays CISD and its Title 1 campuses will review and evaluate their parent and family engagement policies. Evaluations may occur as part of discussions during a spring PFE activity or parent feedback may be solicited through a survey.

- 7. Hays CISD will use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies; and Section 1116 (a)(2)(E)

Hays CISD will use the feedback received from families to guide revisions to the policy as well as to the PFE activities provided by each campus.

- 8. Hays CISD will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy and provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.  
Section 1116 (a)(2)(F) and Section 1116 (e)(14)

Hays CISD does not have a parent advisory board (PAB), but parents are involved in district decisions through both district and campus-level committees. These committees include, but are not limited to, the District Leadership Team, the Campus Leadership Teams, and the Campus PTAs. Information about Title I, Part A is shared with these groups and all parents through campus newsletters, the district and campus websites, as well as district social media accounts. Because the needs of campuses and their families vary, the parent involvement activities are developed by each campus with input from their families.

- 9. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Hays CISD shall:
  - (i) provide assistance to parents of children served by the local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of the parent and family engagement program, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children; Section 1116 (e)(1)

Title I campuses use their fall and spring Title I meetings as well as other events throughout the year to share information with parents about the state standards, state and local assessments,

and monitoring their student's progress throughout the year. Elementary campuses hold fall parent conferences to meet individually with each parent to discuss these topics and to make personal connections with each family so that the family feels more comfortable in communicating with their child's teacher.

(ii) Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement; Section 1116 (e)(2)

Title 1 campuses hold literacy and/or math nights to share strategies and tools for parents to use at home when they read and study with their students.

(iii) educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, 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 the school; Section 1116 (e)(3)

Each fall, each campus administrator will share with teachers a presentation about the importance of family involvement including effective methods for reaching out and working with parents.

(iv) ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand; Section 1116 (e)(5)

The district and campus PFE policies, the parent's right to know letter, and the school-parent compacts will be provided on the Hays CISD or campus website in English and Spanish. The school-parent compacts will also be shared with elementary school parents at fall parent conferences in English and Spanish. Campus newsletters with information about ways that parents can support student learning at home will be shared with families in English and Spanish.