

# MURRAY CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Statement of.....

## **Policy and Responsibility**

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SUBJECT: PARENT/FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

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The Board recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family, and that students will achieve and maintain a higher level of performance when this cooperation is encouraged.

The Board recognizes that Title I Schools [*Section 1116, ESSA*] commit to closing the achievement gap for all students with particular attention paid to economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or those of any racial or ethnic minority background.

To this end the Board supports the development, implementation and evaluation of a parent/family engagement program in each school.

### A. School Parent/Family Engagement Policy

Title I Schools will jointly develop with parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy describing the means for carrying out the requirements outlined in Section 1118, subsections (c) through (f) of the "No Child Left Behind Act of 2001."

The purpose of an effective parental involvement policy is to improve all students' academic achievement.

Each school's policy may incorporate those areas deemed necessary for success at that location. Each school's policy shall include the following:

- Ways parents will be kept informed and assisted in understanding expected academic standards at the state, district, and school levels.
- Ways parents will be provided materials and training to help them work with their children to improve achievement, such as literacy, numeracy and technology training.
- Ways educators and parents will work together, reach out, and communicate with each other in order to realize more fully the value and contributions that parental involvement adds to the success of the school.
- Ways in which appropriate coordination of parent involvement activities will take place with pre-school, before school and after school activities, or any programs in which the school may participate or assist.
- Ways in which ongoing parent input for other activities, requests, suggestions, ideas or concerns might be received.

## B. Policy Involvement

At the beginning of the school year, each school will distribute an updated parent involvement policy to patrons. The policy will be written in understandable language and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. In addition, an annual meeting will be held in each Title I school to inform parents of the school's parent involvement policy and the school-parent compact. Other parent meetings will be held throughout the school year to provide parents with ongoing information, training, and materials to help them work with their children in the areas of literacy, numeracy, and technology.

Schools will hold SEPs (Student Education Plan) conferences - also known as Parent Teacher Conferences - at least twice a year. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and expected student proficiency levels will be shared with parents. Student progress will be addressed and goals will be set to further student academic achievement.

Additional ways that schools will build capacity for parent/family engagement,

- Parents and teachers will be provided with pamphlets outlining specific academic standards and benchmarks for each grade level.
- SEP conferences will be designed to disseminate information about the prior year's academic state testing as well as progress throughout the current school year.
- Planners or home communication folder as well as progress reports will be used to communicate academic performance throughout the school year.
- School websites will provide parents with Title I documents as well as information on their students' educational progress.
- Community councils will allow for communication between the community members and school personnel. (see Board Policy ADM 224).
- Schools will utilize resources for effective use of volunteers.
- Business partners and Mentoring Programs will be used as a resource.
- Schools will coordinate with Head Start and district preschools to provide services for preschool students.
- Schools will provide local preschools with information and materials to facilitate the transition into Kindergarten.
- Schools will coordinate information gathered from needs assessments to drive parent programs and instruction.
- Schools will provide important educational documents written in understandable language and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand.
- Parents may be used as a resource to train other parents.
- All efforts will be made to schedule school meetings and SEPs in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.

## C. Shared Responsibility for High Academic Achievement – School-Parent Compact

### School Responsibilities

- Schools will provide quality curriculum/instruction through the use of highly qualified staff as well as research-based materials. Ongoing professional development will take place to improve the quality of teaching.
- Schools will provide opportunities for parent involvement and volunteering
- Schools will hold SEP conferences at least twice each year. Student progress will be addressed and goals will be set to further student academic achievement.
- Schools will provide parents with progress reports on a regular basis along with newsletters and student planners or communication folders.

### Parent Responsibilities

- Parents will participate in their student's education by monitoring student attendance, communicating through daily student planners, and participating in SEP conferences.
- Parents will monitor homework completion and mastery of standards.
- Parents will read with students, encourage students to read independently, and promote educational opportunities through school-sponsored reading programs.
- Parents will be encouraged to provide positive learning experiences for their children during extra-curricular and out-of-schooltime.
- Parents will be encouraged to volunteer in classrooms.

D. Specific attention will be given to services provided for parents with limited English proficiency, disabilities, or parents of migratory children.

### E. Review

An annual evaluation of parental policies and practices will take place to determine the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools involved. Results will be used to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.