

COE LEA PARENT ENGAGEMENT POLICY

The local governing board of each local educational agency (LEA), or agency, receiving Title I, Part A funding shall establish and implement a written parent and family engagement policy and program.

(California Education Code [EC] sections [§§] 11500-11504, 51101[b]; 20 United States Code [U.S.C.] § 6318[a][1], 6318[a][2])

The Santa Cruz County Office of Education has developed jointly with, agreed on with, and distributed to, parents and family members of participating children, an LEA-level written parent and family engagement policy. The Santa Cruz County Office of Education will consult with parents/guardians and family members in the development of meaningful opportunities for them to be involved in district and school activities at all grade levels; advisory, decision-making, and advocacy roles; and activities to support learning at home.

The LEA incorporates the parent and family engagement policy into the LEA level plan. (20 U.S.C. § 6312, 6318[a][2]). The district's local control and accountability plan shall include goals and strategies for parent/guardian involvement, including district efforts to seek parent/guardian input in district and school site decision making and to promote parent/guardian participation in programs for English learners, foster youth, students eligible for free and reduced-price meals, and students with disabilities.

To involve parents and family members in the Title I program at The Santa Cruz County Office of Education, the following practices have been established:

- a.) The LEA involves parents and family members in the joint development of the agency's plan, and in the development of support and improvement plans. The Superintendent or designee shall involve parents/guardians and family members in establishing district expectations and objectives for meaningful parent/guardian and family engagement in schools supported by Title I funding, developing strategies that describe how the district will carry out each activity listed in 20 USC 6318, as contained in the accompanying administrative regulation, and implementing and evaluating such programs, activities, and procedures. As appropriate, the Superintendent or designee shall conduct outreach to all parents/guardians and family members. (Education Code 11503; 20 USC 6318)
- b.) The LEA provides coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to

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improve student academic achievement and school performance. The LEA coordinates professional learning and support to discuss and implement best practices for parent engagement. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][B])

- c.) The LEA coordinates and integrates Title I, Part A parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. The LEA stays current on Title I, Part A parent and family engagement strategies and revises and updates regularly. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][C])
- d.) The LEA conducts, 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 the schools served under Title I, Part A. The LEA conducts annual evaluation through meaningful engagement with different family and student groups. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D])

The LEA identifies the following:

1. 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). The LEA utilizes staff members such as Community Organizers to help with outreach and support of families who may have barriers. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][i])
2. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers. The LEA supports parent engagement and family learning activities. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][ii])
3. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The LEA supports positive school interactions through the promotion of effective family communication and regular family, school, and student meetings. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][iii])

The LEA uses the findings of such evaluation in section 1.1(d) of the CE program instrument to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy. The parent and family engagement policy is reviewed and updated with the input from our families. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][E])

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The LEA involves parents in activities of schools served under Title I, Part A to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such an agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. Our families who provide input and revise the parent and family engagement policy represent the needs of the population served. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][F])

LEA Policy on Parent and Family Engagement

The LEA policy on parent and family engagement for all schools (including Title I and non-Title I) in the LEA shall be consistent with the goals and purposes listed below. The LEA regularly reviews and improves processes for parent and family engagement to be aligned with each goal listed below.(EC §§ 11502, 11504, 11506)

- a) Engage parents and family members positively in their children's education by providing assistance and training on topics such as state academic standards and assessments to develop knowledge and skills to use at home to support their children's academic efforts at school and their children's development as responsible future members of our society. Academic standards and assessments as well as ways to support students are discussed with parents. (EC § 11502[a])
- b) Inform parents that they can directly affect the success of their children's learning, by providing parents with techniques and strategies that they may utilize to improve their children's academic success and to assist their children in learning at home. These strategies are discussed in individual meetings as well as group meetings with parents and families. (EC § 11502[b])
- c) Build consistent and effective two-way communication between family members and the school so that parents and family members may know when and how to assist their children in support of classroom learning activities. The LEA supports schools with setting up and sustaining effective systems of communications with parents and families. (EC § 11502[c])
- d) Train teachers, school administrators, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff to communicate effectively with parents as equal partners. The LEA supports the continued learning of staff regarding asset-based partnership between schools and families. (EC § 11502[d])
- e) Integrate and coordinate parent and family engagement activities with the local

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control and accountability plan (LCAP), as applicable, with other programs. The LCAP process is interconnected with our families engagement activities to best gain needed feedback and support with development and implementation of goals. (EC § 11502[e])

Parents and Family Members of Children Receiving Title I

Parents and family members of children receiving Title I, Part A services shall be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved are allotted for parental involvement activities. The LEA supports parent and family member involvement in the development and planning of school plans for Title I, Part A funds. (20 U.S.C. Section 6318[a][3][B])

LEA Funds

Funds reserved by an LEA shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the LEA's parent and family engagement policy, including not less than one of the following: (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D])

- a) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for LEA and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies. The LEA works closely with nonprofit organizations to support parent and family engagement professional development. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][i])
- b) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][ii])
- c) Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members. Staff members who support the outreach and best practices of parent and family engagement are connected to the school, parents and families, and local communities. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][iii])
- d) Collaborating, or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement. The LEA supports schools to collaborate with various community organizations. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][iv])
- e) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the LEA determines are

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appropriate and consistent with such agency's parent and family engagement policy. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][v])

The LEA works closely with nonprofit organizations to support parent and family engagement professional development. Staff members who support the outreach and best practices of parent and family engagement are connected to the school, parents and families, and local communities. The LEA supports schools to collaborate with various community organizations.

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