

Traditional School Parent and Family Engagement Policy



School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Millersville Elementary

School Year 2020 - 2021

Revision Date 08/25/2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Millersville Elementary receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Millersville Elementary agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- (C) families 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; and
- (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

 Millersville Elementary will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Millersville Elementary involves families by conducting planning team meetings to develop, review and improve our school parent and family engagement program. An annual meeting is held to offer time for suggestions and the completion of family interest surveys.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

 Millersville Elementary will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families’ requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Millersville Elementary will present the Annual Title I meeting digitally, to inform families of the requirements of Title I and our school’s participation as well as the families’ rights to be involved. The information will be posted to the Millersville website and grade-level Google Classroom platform.

COMMUNICATIONS

 Millersville Elementary will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

The Millersville Elementary parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to families digitally and through student-family communication folders. Family programs, meetings, and other activities will be communicated through flyers, school website, MES Facebook page, monthly school calendars, classroom newsletters, school marquee, School Cast phone calls, and the Remind app. All family engagement flyers will be sent in both English and Spanish.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

_____ Millersville Elementary _____ will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Millersville Elementary will jointly develop with families a school-home compact by holding planning team meetings and regular family engagement opportunities that include opportunities for family feedback to ensure family input. Suggestions and ideas for edits will be offered digitally.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **_____ Millersville Elementary _____** will take the following actions to involve the families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

Families will be informed of the family engagement budget during the annual meeting and families will be asked to provide input into how the funds are used through an interest survey given during the annual Title I meeting.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

_____ Millersville Elementary _____ will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Millersville Elementary coordinates with various local businesses, organizations, and community partners such as the Millersville Public Library, Millersville Farmers Bank, Long Hollow Baptist Church, Simmons Bank, The White House Rotary Club, Goodlettsville Nazarene, Bethel New Testament Church, and local business owners to provide MES families with resources and support.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Millersville Elementary will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

Millersville Elementary will participate in professional learning done via Zoom and other digital platforms. The faculty will participate in learning about Social Emotional Learning by Kim Frank. They will also be inspired by the motivational speaker, Manny Scott during his “Power of One” presentation. Later in the school year, the MES faculty will participate in professional learning by Larry Bell with his presentation of the “Power of Teaching Through High Expectations.” Other professional learning will focus on foundational literacy and the topic of Trauma Informed Education to further meet the needs of our students.

Millersville Elementary will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

Millersville Elementary provides at least four Family Engagement Events that provide information, resources, and activities to support families when working with students at home. These events are designed to equip families with knowledge of grade level learning expectations, standards, and goals. MES also provides family engagement events focused on smaller groups of people such as Kindergarten parents and EL families. This allows the information to be targeted to specific groups of families to maximize full benefit of the events.

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

NOTE TO SCHOOLS: The school parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its families, chooses to undertake to build families’ capacity for involvement in the school to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA. Please indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) school parent and family engagement policy components the school will implement to improve family-school partnerships:

- Involve families in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train families to enhance the engagement of other families.
- To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child’s education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and families who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement

- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

NOTE TO SCHOOLS: Describe how each discretionary item checked above will be implemented.