

**Sioux Falls School District  
Parent and Family Engagement Policy  
2021-22**

**Part I. General Expectations**

*(from District School Board Policy CGD and CGD-R)*

The term “parent and family engagement” refers to the involvement of parents and family members of District students.

- The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that the District’s parent and family engagement strategies are jointly developed with and agreed upon by parents and family members of students participating in Title I programs. Those strategies shall establish expectations for parent and family engagement and describe how the District will carry out each activity listed in Section 1116 (a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 2016 (ESEA).
- The Superintendent or designee shall consult with parents and family members of participating students in the planning, implementation and evaluation of parent and family engagement programs, activities, and regulations. He/she also shall involve parents and family members of participating students in decisions regarding how the District’s Title I funds will be allotted for parent and family engagement activities.
- The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that each school receiving Title I funds develops a school-level parent and family engagement policy in accordance with ESEA, Section 1112.
- The District shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in building the capacity for strong parent and family engagement to improve student academic achievement and school performance. This coordination, assistance and support shall include:
  - A Federal Programs Director to facilitate development of District parent and family engagement
  - School/Home liaisons to facilitate communication between school personnel and the families of English Learners (EL)
  - Interpreters for parent teacher conferences and other parent/guardian meetings
  - Professional development to enhance the skills of teachers, administrators, and other staff, in building ties between parents and family members and the school
  - Coordinating training with the South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center <http://sdsfec.org>

A parent/guardian, student, employee, or District resident who has a complaint regarding the use of federal Title I funds should adhere to District policies and

regulations KE, KEC, and KEC-R. If a complaint regarding use of federal Title I funds remains unresolved, it may be forwarded by the complainant to the South Dakota Department of Education for review.

## Part II. Plan for Implementing the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

The Sioux Falls School District seeks to engage parents/guardians, partners, and the greater community in meaningful activities and dialogue that fosters shared responsibility for student growth. Each school shall involve stakeholders in decision making at the building level. Such involvement is a critical component of a successful school and a cornerstone of student success.

Schools will encourage parent/guardian and community engagement in a variety of formats, such as PTA/PTO, mentoring school/business partnerships, accreditation teams, advisory committee assignments and volunteering. In addition, each building in the District is required to involve parents/guardians in developing the School Improvement Plan. (*District School Board Policy KCB*)

1. The Sioux Falls School District will involve parents in the joint development and review of the district wide parent and family engagement plan by:
  - Parent representatives will be invited on an annual basis to participate in the District's development of the District's plan. A meeting will be held to inform and engage families and provide families an opportunity to be included.
2. The Sioux Falls School District will establish objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement.
  - Barriers to engagement will be identified and solutions to the barriers will be addressed. Information will be gleaned from conversations.
  - Communication between home and school will be a priority at each school. Schools will develop communication tools to enhance the communication between home and school.
3. The Sioux Falls School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support to Title I schools to support planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - providing a Federal Programs Director to remain current on Title I rules and regulations to advise and support Title I schools. The Federal Programs Director will hold monthly meetings with the Title I principals.
  - allocating a minimum of .95% of the required District 1% set aside for Parent Involvement among the Title I schools to support parent and family

activities. Each Title I school will involve parents in deciding how their parent and family engagement funds will be spent.

- providing staff time for parent teacher conferences in the fall and spring.

4. The Sioux Falls School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement and develop strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

- Ongoing communication will be supported by:
  - Providing language interpreters for parent teacher conferences and other formal meetings.
  - sharing school specific information through periodic classroom and school newsletters using the Smore program, which allows for translation into multiple languages.
  - using Language Line for emergency interpretation or for other situations when in-person interpretation is not possible.
  - televising School Board Meetings on the District's Educational Access Cable (KLRN) Channel 20.
  - providing comprehensive information through the District's website, [www.sf.k12.sd.us](http://www.sf.k12.sd.us). This information includes all District policies, agendas and minutes of School Board meetings, data profiles and performance reports for all schools, and breaking news stories.
  - providing students, parents, and the community to ask questions of the District through the Let's Talk communication tool. Questions are sorted to the correct department and prompt response is given by a district employee.
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  - providing timely updates and messages to parents, in their primary language whenever possible, through Parent Link, Facebook, and Twitter.
  - providing, upon request, printed copies of the District Data Profile, the District Budget, specific District policies, and the District and individual school accountability report cards with summaries.
  - providing the K-12 Insight system to facilitate gathering information from parents through online surveys.
  - maintaining a Sioux Falls School District app.
- Encouraging use of the South Dakota Statewide Family Engagement Center. ([www.sdsfec.org](http://www.sdsfec.org)) and encouraging attendance at events sponsored by the South Dakota Parent Information and Engagement Center.

4. The Sioux Falls School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Title I with parental involvement strategies under Head Start, Blended Preschool, Migrant Education, McKinney-Vento, Indian Education and Title III by:

- Requiring District and building administrators involved in the Head Start, Blended Preschool, Migrant Education, McKinney-Vento, Indian Education and Title III programs to meet each year to review reports and plans for parent and family engagement to identify gaps, overlaps and opportunities for strengthening involvement.

5. The Sioux Falls School District will conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in parent and family engagement activities, especially barriers to parents and family members who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The evaluation will also examine how the District's 1% set aside for Parent and Family Engagement is spent. This evaluation will be conducted at the focus group meeting with parents.

6. The Sioux Falls School District will involve parents in the activities served under the Title I Program by:

- supporting school staff in the ongoing process of involving and encouraging parents as partners in their child's education.
- creating a safe and welcoming environment where families feel welcome at school.

### Part III. Discretionary Parent and Family Engagement Components

Parents and family members are most interested in opportunities for more involvement in the specific schools their children attend. Each school year, Title I schools will provide a minimum of two of the following parent and family engagement strategies that have proven effective in strengthening the school parent partnership:

- o Holding family events at various times of day and days of the week focused on activities that parents can do with their children to improve math skills and reading comprehension.
- o Creating a refrigerator magnet with the child's picture and 3-4 things parents and children can do together to build math and reading achievement.

- o Inviting parents to eat lunch with their children and giving the parents the opportunity to share success, concerns and suggestions.
- o Build relationships between teachers and parents through home visits.
- o Using Parent Link to communicate time sensitive information through the parent's preferred medium (telephone, text message, or email) and in the parent's primary language whenever possible.
- o Taking time at music concerts or other family activities to share ideas about how parents can support their student's academic achievement at home.
- o Holding a multicultural family event to share cultures.
- o Providing a monthly update to parents about school activities.
- o Encouraging classroom teachers to send a newsletter home to parents summarizing what students have been learning and sharing links to websites that families can explore with their children.
- o Facebook videos from teachers to share strategies for parents to help their child at home
- o Invite parents and community members to participate in curriculum-related demonstrations such as robotics, coding, and collaborating over projects.

#### Part IV. Adoption

This district wide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A at the beginning of each school year.