

PASD Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school district that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly agree on and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (district-wide parent and family engagement policy). The policy establishes the Local Education Agency's (LEA's) expectations for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the State educational agency (SEA). The parent pertains to the parents/guardians of Palmerton Area School District Students.

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PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Palmerton Area School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent partnership/compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents and families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent and/or family comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education

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- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental and family involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents/families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents /families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents /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;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW PASD WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Palmerton Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA by:
 - *holding an annual parent / family meeting;*
 - *forming a volunteer committee to review parent partnership/compact, school parental policy, and district-wide policy.*
2. The Palmerton Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - *Parents and families will be surveyed after the Family Night and at the end of the school year to evaluate the program*
 - *Title I staff are available during Meet the Teacher Night and Teacher Conferences upon request to discuss program review*
3. The Palmerton Area School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - *Administrators will budget appropriate funds for activities that support parent and family involvement.*

- *All members of the school district will be asked to support parent and family involvement activities.*
 - *The district will encourage parents and families to be participants in the learning experience and school activities of their children.*
4. The Palmerton Area School District will coordinate and integrate parental / family involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
- *Parents of Preschool Students in programs such as Head Start, IU Early Intervention, and local Pre-Kindergarten, Pre-K Counts will be invited to Family Night and/or Summer Reading Program.*
 - *Visitation and activities focusing on early literacy skills are available upon teacher and/or parent request.*
 - *The district will communicate with Head Start for joint collaboration.*
5. The Palmerton Area School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.
- *The district will have parents and families complete a Title I survey at the end of the school year. Results from the survey will be analyzed and be shared with administrators and staff. Information from these surveys will be considered to make reasonable changes in next year's program.*
6. The Palmerton Area School District will work to build strong parental/family involvement, in order to ensure an effective partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
- the State's Core Standards
 - the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - the requirements of Title I, Part A
 - how to monitor their child's progress

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- how to work with educators
 - *Parent/Teacher conferences, informal conferences, and problem solving meetings are convened throughout the year which help to explain local assessments, how to monitor the child's progress, and how to work with the child at home.*
 - *Parents are given results of local assessments as needed.*
 - *Link on the district website to Palmerton Area School District report card*
 - *Information on assessments is shared at Meet the Teacher Night.*

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
 - *hosting a Meet the Teacher Night (Title I offers a Family Night to enhance literacy strategies for all students, including public, non-public, and pre-kindergarten students);*
 - *providing free materials to all students and parents to promote literacy at Meet the Teacher Night and Family Night as well as through our parent resource centers;*
 - *offering contact information for all professional staff;*
 - *providing access to PowerSchool, a secured internet based grade reporting system for 1st through 12th grades;*
 - *giving students and parent/guardian progress updates as needed;*
 - *providing information through the district website to all parents (www.palmerton.org);*
 - *providing students with a student handbook or agenda.*

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, through:
 - *Title I staff meeting;*
 - *Parent Teacher Organization meetings;*
 - *administrative team meetings;*
 - *building level staff meetings;*
 - *surveys.*

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement activities with programs such as Head Start,

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Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, Pre K Counts and public preschool and other 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, through:

- *instructional materials given to students for academic use at home;*
- *Meet the Teacher Night provided for families;*
- *kindergarten orientation prior to the start of school to transition; students to kindergarten. Staff meet with Head Start, and IU teachers for transition meetings;*
- *information is shared to parents from outside organizations;*

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- *the district's approved ELL (English Language Learners) program is available to assist any ELL family;*
- *school events will be well publicized;*
- *communication with parents will be encouraged;*
- *flyers and reminders are sent home to invite parents and children to the Annual Title I Family Night.*

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Palmerton Area School District, under section 1118(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, exercises its right to strengthen involvement with parents and families to build their children's academic achievement by:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times;

- adopting and implementing approaches to improving parental involvement;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities;
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request;
- involving parents and families in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy. The findings of the evaluation will be used to design strategies for more effective parental involvement if needed.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed and agreed to with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by committee involvement.

This policy was adopted by the Palmerton Area School District and will be in effect until 6/30/2021. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)

6/3/2020