

Ten Things *Everyone* Must Know about Family Engagement in Title I, ESSA

The purpose of Title I: “To provide all children significant opportunity to receive a fair, equitable, and high-quality education, and to close educational achievement gaps.”

- 1. Basic requirement:** A school district may receive funds under this part **only if** it:
 - Conducts outreach to **all** parents and family members;
 - Plans and implements programs, activities, and procedures to involve parents and family members in Title I programs, in meaningful consultation with Title I parents.
- 2. District policy:** Each Title I school district **shall** develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents and family members of Title I children a *written* parent and family engagement policy that is part of the district’s plan and establishes the agency’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.
- 3. Capacity-building:** District policy must provide technical assistance and other support to build the capacity of Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- 4. Annual Evaluation:** The district must conduct, with meaningful parent and family involvement, an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including identifying barriers, parent needs, and successful strategies. The findings must be used to improve the program.
- 5. Minimum Spending:** Each district **shall** reserve **at least** 1 percent of its Title I funds to assist schools to carry out the parent and family engagement activities. This provision shall not limit districts from reserving more than 1 percent. Parents of Title I children **shall** be involved in the decisions about how these funds will be used.
- 6. Professional Development:** A preferred use of funds is to support schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for district and school staff about effective parent and family engagement strategies
- 7. School policy:** Each Title I school **shall** write a parent and family engagement policy that is developed with and approved by parents. The school must notify parents and the community in a language parents can understand, and update the policy periodically.
- 8. School-parent compact:** Each Title I school **shall** jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will *share the responsibility* for improved student achievement and how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State’s high standards.
- 9. Parent-teacher communication:** The compact must describe how the school will provide regular, two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.
- 10. Dual capacity-building:** Title I districts must, with assistance from parents, educate teachers, support staff, school leaders, and other staff, in the importance of engaging families; how to work with parents as equal partners, and build ties between parents and the school.