

# Title I, Part A Local Education Agency (LEA)/Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Lodi Unified School District

06/13/2023

1.0 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])

Lodi Unified School District (LUSD) has developed a written Title I parent and family engagement policy with input from parents and family members of participating children.

Lodi Unified School District develops the policy with parents input through collecting input through a variety of surveys and parent meetings, including both District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC) and District Advisory Committee (DAC). During DELAC and DAC meetings, staff involve parents in the planning, reviewing, and evaluating improvements of Title I programs, including updating the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy. LUSD has distributed the policy to parents and family members of children served under Title I, Part A. Periodically, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy gets reviewed for Board Approval. The policy is distributed to families through the annual notification, site newsletters, student-family handbooks, and posted on the district's website. The policy is reviewed during meetings with the following committees to obtain feedback from parents and community:

- District English Learner Advisory
- District Advisory Committee

The policy is distributed to parents in the following ways:

- Distributed to all students annually at the start of the school year as part of Online Data Confirmation
- Posted on the district's webpage

1.1 Lodi Unified School District 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. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2].) The LEA incorporates the parent and family engagement policy into the LEA level plan. (20 U.S.C. § 6312, 6318[a][2]) LUSD includes actions directed toward improving family engagement in the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP). These actions include services, and expenditures addressing family engagement, including meaningful participation and opportunities to provide input on decisions. Actions and strategies are also included in the LCAP Federal Addendum.

To involve parents and family members in the Title I program at Lodi Unified School District, 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. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][A])

LUSD annually surveys parents and family members to gather feedback about what is working and areas for improvement around the LCAP, the LCAP Federal Addendum, as well as school goals and actions. Educational partner feedback is also gathered at school meetings, district and school Parent Advisory Committee meetings, School Site Council meetings, and through other means. The information gathered is used to revise the district's LCAP, the LCAP Federal Addendum, and the sites' School Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA).

- 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 improve student academic achievement and school performance. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][B])

District staff work collaboratively with site administrators to plan and implement parent and family engagement activities. Activities include Coffee with the Principal, parent information nights and workshops, and family events.

Activities for each site are described in the school's parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compact, and actions / services are also included in the School Plan for Student Achievement.

- c) To the extent feasible and appropriate, the LEA coordinates and integrates Title I, Part A parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies of other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][C])

LUSD coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. Some of those programs include the following: a) Title II Program - Supporting Effective Instruction to provide professional development opportunities to staff and b) Title III Program to provide supplemental resources to our English Learners.

- 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. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D])

The district annually gathers input and feedback from educational partners through the LCAP surveys, discussion forums with student leadership classes, as well as site and district advisory committees to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. Each Title 1 school site has a School Site Council that is also involved in the process of school review and improvement by collecting information on a variety of ways. There is an annual evaluation of the parent and family engagement policy.

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). (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][i])

The district annually gathers input and feedback from educational partners through the LCAP surveys, discussion forums with student leadership classes, as well as site and district advisory committees to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy. Barriers are identified through this process, and actions are developed to address the needs of families, such as providing child care, offering flexible meeting times based on parent input, and ensuring information is provided in a language and format easily understood by families.

2. The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][ii])

Each school site provides their own parent nights that support families with strategies to engage with the school. Strategies include questions to ask during parent conferences, how to contact their child's teacher, and assistance with completing school forms.

3. Strategies to support successful school and family interactions. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][D][iii])

Each school develops a site parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact designed to meet the needs of the families. Schools host family information nights, such as Freshmen Orientation, etc., informational meetings with the principal, and other opportunities for families to engage with the staff. The compact describes how families and school staff share the responsibility for improving student achievement and how the school and families will collaborate to assist students in achieving the state academic standards.

- e) 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. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][E])

The results of the evaluation are used to design evidence-based strategies to improve family engagement, and revise the parent and family engagement policy, as needed.

- f) 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 agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][2][F])

Every year, the district meets with the DELAC and DAC Parent Committees as well as various LCAP Community Forums to review results of the annual evaluation and input from educational partners. This information is then used to develop, revise, and review the parent and family engagement policy.

1.2 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 following goals and purposes: (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. (EC § 11502[a])

All schools develop site parent and family engagement plans and school-parent compacts to address the needs of parents at their school. Each school offers parent and family engagement activities to assist families with supporting learning at home. Information and resources are shared with families at parent information nights, parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, sent home, as well as shared on school and district websites.

- 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. (EC § 11502[b])

Information and resources are provided to parents on strategies to assist their child's learning at home through parent meetings, family nights, sent home, as well as shared on school and district websites.

- 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. (EC § 11502[c])

An all call system is used district-wide to communicate with parents, along with social media, emails, newsletters to assist with home-school communication connecting parents with school and community resources.

- d) Train teachers, school administrators, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff to communicate effectively with parents as equal partners. (EC § 11502[d])

Teachers and administrators communicate effectively with parents through online communication such as email, school social media sites, etc., along with newsletters being sent home.

- e) Integrate and coordinate parent and family engagement activities with the local control and accountability plan (LCAP), as applicable, with other programs. (EC § 11502[e])

Each site annually develops a School Plan for Student Achievement which includes goals, actions, strategies, and expenditures for family engagement in addition to goals to improve academic achievement and the learning environment.

1.3 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. (20 U.S.C. Section 6318[a][3][B])

The district reserves at least one percent of the Title I, Part A allocation to support districtwide family engagement activities. Family engagement activities are included in the district's LCAP and the LCAP Federal Addendum.

1.4 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. (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. (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. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][iv])
- e) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the LEA determines are appropriate and consistent with such agency's parent and family engagement policy. (20 U.S.C. § 6318[a][3][D][v])

Each school designates family members to serve on the DELAC and DAC Committees. The committees review input gathered from educational partners about family engagement activities. This information is used to annually update the LCAP and the LCAP Federal Addendum, including the actions and services for family engagement.

*\*It may be helpful to include the parent and family engagement policy review in the annual review of the Local Control and Accountability Plan Federal Addendum.*

*\*\*The policy must be updated periodically to meet changing needs of parents and family members and the LEA. If the LEA has a process in place for involving parents and family members in planning and designing the school's programs, the LEA may use that process if it includes adequate representation of parents and family members of children receiving Title I, Part A services.*