



# HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT Office of the Superintendent

*Brian F. Uplinger, Ed.D.*  
Superintendent of Schools

*Patrick Patte Ed.D.*  
Assistant to the Superintendent for  
Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment

*Daniel Rodgers*  
Assistant to the Superintendent  
of Schools for Human Resources

*Robert Mehalick*  
Assistant to the Superintendent  
of Schools for Student Services

## Title I Hazleton Area School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

The term “parent” includes in addition to a natural parent, a legal guardian or other person standing in *loco parentis* (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare). [Section 9101(31), ESEA.]

**Date revised/reviewed:** October 2024

All Local Education Agencies (LEA) receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA. ESSA states that the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the LEA plan (Consolidated Application), and distribute to parents of participating children in a format and language that parents can understand. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

### **The HASD involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Consolidated Application (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)).**

The Hazleton Area School District values feedback and the involvement of all stakeholders in the joint development of the Consolidated Application, Title I plans, and activities. We invite parents from each Title I school, as well as other stakeholders, to join the district-wide Parent Advisory Committee where members assist in the review and/or revision of the Parent and Family Engagement plan, school improvement plans, Title I plans, and Consolidated Application. The district will host two district wide meetings each school year (Fall and Spring) to share with parents how Title I, Part A funds are used and to inform them of their rights as parents in the Schoolwide Title I schools as well as the development of the consolidated application and how to budget and allocate P&FE funds for the next school year. The plans are reviewed and/or revised annually with input from parents/guardians. During the Spring meeting, parents, family members, and other stakeholders are invited to provide input and feedback on the development of the Consolidated Application. Members of each school’s Parent Advisory Committee are encouraged to attend and participate in the development of the plan. Information regarding these meetings will be disseminated through multiple channels to ensure maximum participation, including district and school messaging systems and websites, social media, and direct communication with parents.

### **The Hazleton Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under ESSA, section 1116(a)(2)(A):**

The HASD involves parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement in accordance with (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)) to participate in the school review and improvement processes, including becoming a member of the schoolwide improvement planning team, school PAC, or attending parent-teacher conferences; this list is not exhaustive. Surveys and feedback mechanisms are distributed to gauge each school’s effectiveness, as well as parental and community engagement. Surveys will also be utilized to gather input from parents on areas for improvement and strategies to enhance school performance.

#### *Parental Involvement in Schoolwide Plans:*

Parents/guardians and family members of participating children will help develop the schoolwide plan as required by federal law. Recognizing the importance of a strong partnership between schools and families, HASD values parents’ input in academic success and is committed to engaging them in learning and decision-making.

*Opportunities for Engagement:*

Parents/guardians will have multiple opportunities to be involved, such as:

- Meet the Teacher / Annual Title I event
- Open House
- Parent engagement activities/programs
- School events discussing improvement efforts
- Monthly Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meetings: development of schoolwide plans, school improvement, input on activities/programs and policies.

PAC members are invited to participate in developing school/district policies, schoolwide improvement plans, and the Title I plan in the consolidated application. Additional engagement activities and programs will be scheduled throughout the year. School/district information and event notifications will be available in both English and Spanish, and all event notifications will be made available via various communication methods including, but not limited to, district messaging system, Class Dojo, school websites, Sky Alerts, Remind App, Parent Square, PTA Facebook pages, Instagram, and paper notifications.

Each Title I school in conjunction with their Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) will plan year-long activities that promote increased student achievement and school performance.

The Hazleton Area School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents. It is the goal to create a supportive and cooperative partnership between the school, parents, and community for the improvement of students' academic achievement, as well as school improvement by providing assistance to parents on the following prescribed topics:

- the State's academic content standards
- the State's student academic achievement standards
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- the requirements of Title I Part A
- how to monitor their child's progress
- how to work with educators as equal partners

**The Hazleton Area School District provides technical assistance and support to schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(B)*).**

The Hazleton Area School District will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the HASD in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

Each Title I School in conjunction with their Parent Engagement Committee (PAC) will plan year-long activities that promote increased student achievement and school performance. Additionally, the Hazleton Area School District maintains a website [www.hasdk12.org](http://www.hasdk12.org) for parents to access information regarding a school's performance by clicking on the School Report Card. This report card outlines data results from the PSSA Assessment. The report card includes charts for a visual representation of the comparison of district to state results. Parents can see a breakdown of results by grade and by "disaggregate" or subgroups.

*Training and Workshops:*

The HASD offers training sessions and resources to staff and schools to support the planning and implementation of effective parent and family engagement activities. Training topics include but are not limited to Effective communication strategies, organizing family engagement events, and fostering a welcoming school environment.

*Resource Provision:*

The district supplies schools with materials and resources to support family engagement activities. This includes guides, templates, and toolkits designed to help schools plan and execute successful events and programs. These resources will be tailored to address the specific needs of each school and will emphasize evidence-based practices for enhancing student academic achievement.

*Consultation and Guidance:*

Schools receive ongoing consultation from the district's Federal Program's Director on complying with federal and state requirements for family engagement.

*Parent and Family Engagement Events:*

Parent Engagement activities, PTA meetings, Open Houses, educational workshops, and/or family nights are held throughout the school year to involve parents and increase their understanding of various topics. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, through parental engagement activities/programs, disseminate information on technical assistance and best practices that help foster a collaborative and effective working environment with a goal of improved academic achievement for students.

The following materials and/or trainings will be provided, including, but not limited to, the use of bilingual student planners and folders for parent-school communication, literacy and math training, accessing state and local assessment information/scores, using various means of progress monitoring, (Skyward), effective use of technology (liabilities, including education about the harms of copyright piracy, etc.), homework help guidance, PSSA preparation, interventions, Star assessments, differentiated instructional grouping, homework and study skills, reading and math supplemental programs, English language supports, math and reading test taking tips, materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, non-public school programs, and the United Children's Home program.

Each school invites parents to participate in various Title I activities throughout the school year where sessions are held to inform parents of the various district programs utilized and assistance provided on how to effectively use and access them. These sessions provide parents with opportunities to help their child achieve academic success.

**The Hazleton Area School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other federal, state, and local laws and programs (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(C)*).**

The HASD works with federal, state, and local program administrators to align goals and activities. Joint planning sessions ensure that efforts are complementary and not duplicative, maximizing resource use and impact. By sharing resources, such as educational materials, training opportunities and funding with other programs, it allows for provision of comprehensive support to students and families. The district will coordinate with the corresponding organizations to strengthen communication and enhance potential opportunities for parental involvement, including providing information and resources to support school orientation for parents and students to assist in successful student transitions to school.

Through the LEA's and elementary schools' various endeavors, programs are supported to reach parents and family members including, but not limited to, State PTA council association, Migrant Education, Luzerne County Community College, Head Start, Concerned Parent groups, and various support agencies (Northeast Counseling, SBBH, etc.), and schools' parent and family engagement activities/programs. Through district departments and state and local agencies, we have access to a variety of resources to make sure that all families have access to information, training, and support, regardless of language proficiency, disability, or permanence of residency. Home language surveys are conducted to ensure parents are receiving all information in their preferred language. Moreover, transition plan procedures enable students to successfully adapt to new environments.

- The district will ensure alignment between parent and family engagement strategies and other federal, state, and local laws and programs.

- Collaboration with community organizations and agencies will be encouraged to leverage resources and maximize support for parents and families.
- The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool, and other programs.
- Additional activities and resources will be held and/or made available such as parent resource centers that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their children: Parents are invited to our Annual Meeting and Parent Engagement Activities during the school year.

**The Hazleton Area School District evaluates parent and family engagement in all schools. (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii).*)**

HASD conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation through surveys, in various languages via translated documents or bilingual liaisons, of the content and the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools, including identifying:

- barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, 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 needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii).*)
- Communication will be provided in various languages via translated documents or bilingual liaisons. The effectiveness of the parent engagement policy will be determined through annual survey findings and discussed at the District PAC meeting.
- The annual meeting for reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement policy shall include not only an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the policy, but also students' academic data results to improve the academic quality of all schools served under Title I, Part A.

**HASD will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(E).*)**

The Hazleton Area School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental engagement policy, through annual surveys, in improving the academic quality of all schools served under Title I Part A. The effectiveness of the parent engagement policy will be determined through annual survey findings and discussed at the District PAC meeting.

The Hazleton Area School District will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and annually revise (with parents), if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies. Moreover, each school hosts numerous Parent and Family Engagement events throughout the year. Attendance at each school's events is recorded and the data is analyzed and compared to previous years for parent engagement effectiveness. Modifications, if necessary, are made to increase attendance.

All school PAC committees will discuss at their meetings the content and effectiveness of the district and school parent and family engagement activities/policy. Additionally, principals will inform their staff of survey findings and encourage effective communication and parent and family involvement strategies so all school personnel support successful school and family interactions. The Parent and Family Engagement Policies will be revised as necessary based on evaluation outcomes to ensure ongoing improvement and alignment with best practices.

**HASD involves parents and family members in the activities of the school, which include establishing a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs to the population; revising; and reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(F)).**

#### *Use of Funds*

Since HASD receives \$500,000 or more, the district is required to set aside 1% of the federal funds allocated. Not less than 90% of the funds reserved shall be distributed to schools served with priority given to high-need schools. Funds 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:

Supporting schools and nonprofit organization in providing professional development for the district and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parent and family members. (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(i)).

Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school. (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(ii)).

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 (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(iii)).

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. (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(iv)).

Each Title I school in the district has a Parent Advisory Council (PAC). The school's council will comprise a diverse group of parents and family members representing the needs of the population served by the district. They meet monthly to assist in planning and implementing parent and family engagement events to increase participation in the school and receive information on best practices to increase student achievement. Pertinent information is disseminated not only during PAC meetings, but also provided at all Parent and Family Engagement of any events or activities and strategies that the LEA determines are appropriate and consistent with the LEA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy. (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(v)).

**The Hazleton Area School District has established the Parent Advisory Councils (PACs) to provide ongoing input and guidance on parent and family engagement initiatives.**

The Hazleton Area School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents. It is the goal to create a supportive and cooperative partnership between the school, parents, and community for the improvement of students' academic achievement, through the following prescribed activities:

- 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:
  - the State's academic content standards
  - the State's student academic achievement standards
  - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
  - the requirements of Part A
  - how to monitor their child's progress
  - how to work with educators
- Parents are invited to attend the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) conference, Parent Engagement activities, Parent-teacher conferences, Family nights, and PTA meetings that are held throughout the school year to involve parents and increase their understanding of various topics. The following list of topics presented is inclusive, but not limited to: PSSA Preparation, Interventions, Imagine Learning, Kid Writing, HYBRID

Learning, Homework and Study Skills, Reading and Writing Together, Math Websites, Math and Reading Test Taking Tips, Non-Public School Programs, and the United Children's Home Program.

- The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, through parental engagement activities, disseminate information on best practices that help foster a collaborative and effective working environment with a goal of improved academic achievement for students. The following materials and/or trainings will be provided, including, but not limited to, the use of bilingual student planners in 3<sup>rd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade for parent-school communication, literacy and math training, State and local assessments, progress monitoring, effective use of technology (liabilities, copyrights, etc.), and homework help guidance. Each school invites parents to participate in various Title 1 activities throughout the school year. These sessions provide parents with opportunities to help their child achieve academic success.
- The school district, with the assistance of parents, will educate its teachers, pupil service personnel, principals, and staff in the development of effective communication efforts to collaboratively work with parents as equal partners in students' educational career. Parent involvement and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by: Providing parents with opportunities to visit schools and meet with faculty. In September, our schools conduct a Meet the Teachers Night. Parents can meet our teachers and review our curriculum. Additionally, parents are informed about teacher expectations and teacher requirements for their students. In April/Spring, our schools host a Parent and Family Night. Parents/Families can visit classrooms and observe children's work.
- The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool, and other programs. Additional activities and resources will be held and/or made available such as parent resource centers that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their children, by: Parents are invited to our Annual Meetings and Parent Engagement Activities during the school year.
- Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the HASD determines are appropriate and consistent with the HASD's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(v)*).
- Providing professional development for school personnel and parents on effective engagement strategies. (Staff view the SPAC kit videos annually.)

#### **POLICY INVOLVEMENT**

Each school served under this part shall:

- convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.
- offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parents and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children.
- provide parents of participating children with timely information about programs.
- a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.

- if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- if the schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parents' comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the district.
- **SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**
  - Each school served 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 academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.
    - Such compact shall - describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time
      - address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis.
      - participate in parent-teacher conferences at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.
      - review grades on their children's progress.
      - ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

By implementing this Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the HASD is committed to fostering meaningful partnerships with parents and family members to promote student success and school improvement.