



# HAZLETON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## Office of the Superintendent

*Brian J. 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 McHalick*  
Assistant to the Superintendent  
of Schools for Student Services

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

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.]

### PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The **Hazleton 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 in all 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 engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents of children 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, 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 of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental engagement 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 play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.*

*(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.*

*(C) that parents 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 DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Hazleton Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

*Title I schools submit names of interested parents to serve on the District Wide Parent Engagement Committee. On-going meetings are held at the District Administration Building. Using the Title I District Parent Engagement Policy Checklist, the District Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) develops the plan. This plan is reviewed and/or revised annually with the parents/guardians.*

a. The Hazleton 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/guardians and family members of participating children will be involved in the development of the LEA plan required by federal law. HASD recognizes the importance of a strong partnership between the school and parents/guardians and families. We understand the role our parents/guardians play and value their input in the academic success of the students and programs. Therefore, we are committed to making all efforts to engage parents/guardians and families in the learning and decision-making process. Parents/guardians will be provided multiple opportunities to be involved. They are encouraged to meet with teachers and staff during Meet the Teacher, Open House, parent conferences, and school events. Moreover, schools have a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) that meets monthly and provides parents/guardians an opportunity to allow for input and feedback on programs and policies. Parents/guardians are also invited to participate in various Parent and Family Engagement activities and programs scheduled throughout the year. School 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, Class Dojo, school websites, Sky Alerts, Remind App, PTA Facebook pages, Instagram, and paper notifications.*

2. The Hazleton 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 engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

*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.*

3. The Hazleton Area School District will support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school, and coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies and activities, in compliance with Title I Part A, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs. *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 group meetings, the Read with Me Program, 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.*

4. 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 evaluation will include identifying barriers for increased participation of parents in parental engagement 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). 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.*

5. 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, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies. *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 engagement, and to revise annually, if necessary (with parent involvement) its parental engagement policies. All school PAC committees will discuss at their meetings the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement activities. 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 District PAC Committee will discuss all district wide activities to evaluate their content and effectiveness. Policies will be Board approved and revised as necessary.

1. 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:
  - 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 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 and PTA meetings 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.

- B. 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 I activities throughout the school year. These sessions provide parents with opportunities to help their child achieve academic success.*
    - C. 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 Gallery Night. Parents/Families can visit classrooms and observe children's work.*
    - D. 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 Meeting and Parent Engagement Activities during the school year.*

- 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: *Flyers are sent home in multiple languages regarding programs and activities with adequate notification for increased parent attendance. Moreover, school activities and/or meetings are posted on schools' web sites, Class Dojo, Sky Alerts, Remind App, Social Media Outlets, PTA Facebook pages, and HASD announcement page.*

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

NOTE: The District Wide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA: *The Hazleton Area School District has joined forces with select United Way member agencies to form The Positive Parenting Council of Greater Hazleton.*

This Council has made a commitment to collaboratively offer comprehensive parent training programs to all parents in the greater Hazleton area. Their mission is to prevent the cycle of abuse and neglect that leads to poverty, drug abuse, violence, school dropouts and a myriad of other social issues. The district has also formed a community relationship with organizations such as: Migrant Education, Hazleton Integration Project, the Rotary Club, Brandon's Forever Home for support of local Foster Youth, and Luzerne County Community College to include and access programs for parent and family language support, family resources, and counseling. The list is not exhaustive.

### **PART IV. ADOPTION**

This District Wide Parental and Family Engagement Policy has been discussed and reviewed/revised at meetings on: March 23, 2023 and October 25, 2023