

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

Definition of “Parent” as utilized: Parent shall mean the biological parent or the Title I student or shall include caregivers, a legal guardian or other person standing In Loco Parentis such as grandparent or stepparent with whom the student lives; a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare; or a legally appointed education decision maker of a student participating in a Title I Program.

### **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 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 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 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 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 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for **parental engagement** is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 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 it’s 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 1 schools submitted 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 1 District Parent **Engagement** Policy Checklist, the **District Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)** developed the plan.*

2. 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:

*The Hazleton Area School District maintains a website [www.hasdk12.org](http://www.hasdk12.org). Parents can access information regarding a school's performance by clicking on School Report Card. This report card outlines our data from the PSSA Assessment. Our report card includes charts to provide a visual comparison of our results to the state results. Parents can see a breakdown of results by grade and by "disaggregate" or subgroups. Parents can also access information at <http://paayp.emetric.net/School/Overview>*

3. 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 1 School in conjunction with their **Parent Engagement Committee (PAC)** will plan year-long activities that promote increased student achievement and school performance. Information about the Title 1 Program, can be found on our web site at [www.hasdk12.org/Title](http://www.hasdk12.org/Title).

4. The Hazleton Area School District will coordinate and integrate **parental engagement** strategies in Part A with **parental engagement strategies** under the following other programs: Title I will coordinate parent engagement activities with elementary schools through the Read with Me Program.

5. 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 quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by 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). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more **effective parental engagement**, and to revise, if necessary (and with the **engagement of parents**) its **parental engagement policies**. All school **PAC committees** will discuss at their meetings the content and effectiveness of the parent and **family engagement activities**.

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 parent's capacity for strong parental engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, 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 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, and
- how to work with educators:

Parents are invited to attend the State Parent Advisory Council (SPAC) Conference, July 10-12, 2019. Seminars are held, Parent Engagement Activities and at PTA meetings for increasing parent understanding which include the following topics: PSSA Preparation, Interventions, READ 180, System 44, 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, provide materials and training, including Bilingual student planners 2-8<sup>th</sup> grades, to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement and awareness, by:

*Each school inviting parents to participate in various Title I Activities throughout the school year. These sessions provide parents with opportunities for ways to help their students achieve academic success.*

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, by:

*Providing parents with opportunities to visit schools and meet with faculty. In September, our Schools conduct a Meet the Teachers Night. Parents have the opportunity to 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. Parent/Families have the opportunity to visit classrooms and observe children's work, from throughout the year.*

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, 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, by: Parents are invited to our General 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:

*Children receive flyers regarding programs and activities. These flyers are sent home with adequate time for parents to attend and in a language that they can understand. School activities are also posted on the Individual Schools' web sites.*

### **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 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 and family resources and counseling.*

### **PART IV. ADOPTION**

This District Wide Parental and Family Engagement Policy has been discussed and reviewed at meeting on:

2018-2019 Revision Date October 03, 2018. \_\_\_\_\_

Board Approval Date: \_\_\_\_\_