

Richardson ISD District Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2016-2017

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Richardson Independent 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 and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, and non-Title I 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 and family members of participating children.
- ✚ Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental and family 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 and family engagement policy into its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- ✚ To the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members 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 and family members understand.
- ✚ If the LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents and family members of participating children, the school district will submit any parent and family member comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- ✚ The school district will involve the parents and family members 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 and family 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 and family engagement, and expects that its schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental and family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two- way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

(B) that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

(C) that parents and family members 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. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL AND FAMILY MEMBER ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Richardson Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district-wide parental and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

The Richardson District Planning Committee will develop the district written parental and family engagement policy jointly with the Director of Federal Programs.

2. The Richardson Independent School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

The Richardson District Planning Committee, jointly with the Director of Federal Programs, will review and improve the district written parental and family engagement policy yearly prior to distribution of the policy to parents and family members in the fall. Parents and family members will also participate in decision making through the Parent Advisory Committee and serving on Campus Planning Committees.

3. The Richardson Independent School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist in planning and implementing effective parental and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

Provide training to administrators in the development of the written campus parental and family engagement policy;

Provide technical assistance in the development of the campus written parental and family engagement policy;

Provide funding at Title I campuses (95% of the 1% reservation of Title I, Part A funds) to support the development and distribution of the campus written parental and family engagement policy in addition to parental and family engagement activities included in the written campus parental and family engagement policy and/or campus improvement plan.

4. The Richardson Independent School District will coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement strategies in Part A with parental and family engagement strategies under the following other programs:

Where appropriate, the district will coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement strategies and opportunities at campuses which are linked to the following: the library, preschool programs, pre-kindergarten programs, special education programs, ESL/Bilingual programs, reading programs, etc.

5. The Richardson Independent School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental and family engagement policy. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in parental and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents and family members 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 and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents and family members) its parental and family engagement policies.

Richardson ISD will survey the parents and family members to evaluate the effectiveness of the program including (but not limited to) parental and family engagement strategies and barriers to greater participation.

This survey will be offered in the spring and disaggregated in the comprehensive needs assessment process in order to assist in the development of the district and campus improvement plan.

6. The Richardson Independent School District will build the schools' and parent/family's capacity for strong parental and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, family members, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide assistance to parents and family members 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.*

The school district will, with the assistance of its school, provide materials and training to help parents and family members work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, Edline training, Student Portal, Focus Parent Portal, CLI Engage online learning for parents, Frog Street Parent Portal and Digital Library, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental and family engagement.

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, parents, and family members, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to implement and coordinate parent and family engagement programs and build ties between parents/family members and schools. Parent Education Nights may focus on reading, writing or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). Parent Teacher Association (PTA) hosts the car seat program, the RISD clothes closet, angel tree donations and the Lake Highlands Early Childhood PTA. Altrusa International partners with Terrace Elementary to support parent engagement through Teddy Bear Time/Read to Me Time (reading programs), take home backpacks filled with parent-child activities, and assistance with the Parent Expo. Dad's Clubs such as Watch Dogs (Dad of Great Students) can be found throughout multiple RISD campuses. The school district utilizes RISD School Times (electronic community newsletter), Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and many campus level newsletters to communicate with families.

The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement programs and activities such as the RISD Family Literacy Program, Richardson Adult Literacy Center (RALC), PACE, parent and family member volunteer programs, secondary parenting classes and the annual RISD ELL Parent Fair, that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children. The RISD Family Literacy Program offers Adult ESL classes, Early Childhood classes, home visitation programs (Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters(HIPPY) and the Parents as Teachers(PAT) Program),and parenting classes. RALC offers parenting ESL classes in 11 schools, 10 levels of ESL at Richardson High School and a three –week parent education seminar once in the fall and once in the spring at the Richardson Public Library. PACE hosts numerous programs for families of students attending the after school program including adult ESL and GED classes.

The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent/family - programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents and family members of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand.

PART III. ADOPTION

This District Wide Parental and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was reviewed, revised, and adopted by the Richardson Independent School District on October 14, 2016, and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents and family members by way of the online Student Handbook/Student Code of Conduct.