

Title I LEA-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Orange County Department of Education
2020-2021

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])

1.1 The Orange County Department of Education 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].)

Families are invited to provide input on this policy at Title I Annual Meetings, School Site Council meetings, ELAC/DELAC meetings, and Parent Advisory Committee meetings

Surveys are conducted throughout the school year by phone, electronically, and in written form

Students are invited to provide input on the Policy during Focus Groups throughout the year

An evaluation report is compiled annually and shared with families, school staff, and community stakeholders

The Policy is distributed to families at enrollment, posted on the LEA website, and available electronically or by mail upon request

The LEA incorporates the parent and family engagement policy into the LEA level plan. (20 U.S.C. § 6312, 6318[a][2])

The School Site Council, DELAC, and Parent Advisory Committee will share feedback with the LEA for inclusion in the LEA Plan

To involve parents and family members in the Title I program at the Orange County Department of Education, 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])

Families are encouraged to provide feedback on the LEA Plan, the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by participating in committees such as School Site Council, ELAC/DELAC, and Parent Advisory Committees

Surveys are conducted via phone, electronically, and in written form throughout the year

Students are invited to provide input on school plans through Focus Groups and electronic surveys

Families, students, and community stakeholders are invited to provide public comments on the LCAP at designated Board meetings

Stakeholder focus groups are held throughout the year to engage school staff and community partners in the process of continuous school improvement

School staff attend community forums, events, and collaborative meetings to reach out to stakeholders for input on school plans

School plans are posted on the LEA's website for review and comments by parents and stakeholders

Information about involvement in the process of school improvement is announced on social media, sent electronically, shared at school events, and posted on the LEA's website

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])

The Family and Community Partnership Network provides technical assistance and resources to schools to support family-friendly, culturally proficient practices

Teams of parents and school staff attend meetings, workshops, resource fairs, state and local conferences, and other events together to build dual capacity

School staff consult regularly with stakeholders from community-based agencies, colleges and universities, local law enforcement, Social Services, Probation, Orange County Mental Health, local businesses, and others with expertise in family engagement

LEA staff collaborate with local school district teams to share resources and best practices for family engagement

A Family Events Toolkit, distributed to school staff, provides ideas and best practices for developing effective in-person and virtual family engagement activities

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

The Family Engagement Committee coordinates a program of family engagement activities that promote the school's goals for student academic achievement

Program activities integrate the requirements of relevant federal, state, and local laws, such as ESSA and the McKinney-Vento Act

Family engagement strategies are aligned with the California Department of Education's Family Engagement Framework and Toolkit

- 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 LEA Parent Engagement Policy and student achievement data are shared with families at Title I Annual Meetings, School Site Council meetings, ELAC/DELAC meetings, and Parent Advisory Committee meetings and feedback is collected

Surveys are conducted throughout the school year by phone, electronically, and in written form

The LEA uses input from families and stakeholders to produce an Annual Evaluation Report

Information about involvement in the evaluation process is announced on social media, sent electronically, shared at school events, and posted on the LEA's website The Annual Evaluation Report is shared with families and stakeholders electronically, posted on the LEA's website, and available by mail upon request

- e) 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])**

Family needs are assessed at enrollment to identify potential barriers

Parent leaders assist school staff to identify barriers to engagement through outreach to families who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited literacy, and who are from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds

Surveys are conducted throughout the school year via phone, electronically, and in written form to identify challenges families may be experiencing to greater participation

- 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])**

Teachers discuss family needs during Parent-Teacher conferences

School staff collaborate with community groups representing ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, and people who are experiencing homelessness or who are economically disadvantaged

School staff work with bilingual education advocacy groups, libraries, and other literacy organizations to seek input on how to address barriers to successful school and family interactions

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

School staff are trained in effective strategies for building trust and authentic relationships

Bilingual Title I Family Community Liaisons support successful family interactions by using culturally competent practices

The school organizes welcoming events at the school designed to foster relationship building

f) 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 Family Engagement Committee will review the findings of the evaluation to determine if current strategies are effective in improving student achievement and revise the Policy as needed

The Family Engagement Committee will consult with families, community stakeholders, school staff, and family engagement coordinators at the state and local level regarding best practices for addressing identified areas of growth

The Family Engagement Committee will assist the LEA to implement evidence-based strategies to address identified areas as part of the continuous school improvement process

g) 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])

The LEA recognizes that parents are full partners in their children's education and promotes the value of family engagement at all school activities, meetings, and events

Families are personally invited to participate in activities designed to build relationships, such as Open House, Coffee with the Principal, and Parent Appreciation Day

School staff use research-based strategies and culturally proficient practices to build trust and encourage participation in the school program

Families are encouraged to participate in advisory groups, including School Site Council, ELAC/DELAC, and the Parent Advisory Committee

Parent Resource Centers provide information and resources, space for meetings and trainings, and computer and internet access for families

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 goals and purposes listed below. (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])**

The LEA provides training for families on these and other pertinent topics during Title I Annual meetings, Parent Nights, and ELAC/DELAC meetings

Materials and resources are distributed at school events, available in the school office and Parent Resource Centers, posted on the LEA website, and available by mail upon request

Materials and training is available in English and Spanish and other languages upon request

- 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])**

Teachers discuss techniques and strategies for parents to use to improve their children’s academic success during Parent-Teacher conferences

School Counselors, Title I Transition Specialists, and other school staff provide training for parents at school events, and meet individually with parents and family members to provide personalized support

Families are invited to attend workshops, conferences, and resource fairs to learn about ways to support their children’s academic success from home and especially during distance learning

- 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])

The LEA's School-Parent Compact, distributed at enrollment, outlines the importance of effective, two-way communication between the family and the school

Bilingual Title I Family Community Liaisons serve as a bridge to promote effective communication between families and schools staff

The LEA utilizes a wide variety of strategies for two-way communication with families, including in-person meetings, school events, phone calls, video conferencing, text messages, email, and other communication platforms

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

Teams of school staff attend trainings and conferences to learn culturally competent strategies for communicating with families

Trained school staff serve as mentors for their colleagues

Parent Leaders serve together with school staff on school committees to reinforce effective communication strategies

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])

Families are encouraged to provide feedback on the LEA Plan, the Single Plan for Student Achievement (SPSA), and the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) by participating in committees such as School Site Council, ELAC/DELAC, and Parent Advisory Committees

Surveys are conducted via phone, electronically, and in written form throughout the year

Students are invited to provide input on school plans through Focus Groups and electronic surveys

Families, students, and community stakeholders are invited to provide public comments on the LCAP at designated Board meetings

Stakeholder focus groups are held throughout the year to engage school staff and community partners in the process of continuous school improvement

School staff attend community forums, events, and collaborative meetings to reach out to stakeholders for input on school plans

School plans are posted on the LEA's website for review and comments by parents and stakeholders

Information about involvement in the process of school improvement is announced on social media, sent electronically, shared at school events, and posted on the LEA's website

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])

Parents are invited to serve on the School Site Council, which approves expenditures for family engagement activities

Families are invited to provide input on Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent engagement activities during Title I Annual meetings

Surveys are conducted by phone, electronically, and by mail to request input from parents

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])

The LEA contracts with various nonprofit community agencies to provide professional development training for school staff

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])

The LEA funds parenting class providers to offer training for families in the community or virtually

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])

Information on best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged families is provided to school staff during staff development meetings

- 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])**

LEA staff participate in regional collaborative organizations to support partnerships with local community-based organizations and employers

- 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])**

The LEA supports other appropriate activities and strategies that are consistent with this policy when requested by parents