

ACCESS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



Research tells us that family engagement in schools makes a big difference. When schools, families, and communities work together, student achievement increases. ACCESS welcomes and encourages family participation in a variety of ways.

To ensure that parents and guardians are provided with opportunities to be engaged in their children's education, ACCESS implements the strategies described below:

1. ACCESS involves families in the joint development of the Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP) and in the process of school review for program improvement schools under Section 1116.

The Parent Advisory Committees provide input on the LCAP in accordance with the review schedule as established by the Governing Board.

ACCESS invites input on the plan from other district committees, such as the District English Learner Advisory Committee (DELAC).

2. ACCESS helps schools to plan and implement effective family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

The Title I Family Involvement Program Manager will provide training and support to assist schools in developing family-friendly programs.

All ACCESS school sites receive a Family Events Toolkit that provides guidance for implementing effective family engagement activities.

3. ACCESS builds school and family capacity for strong family involvement.

ACCESS assists families in understanding such topics as the state's academic content standards and academic achievement standards, state and local academic assessments, requirements of Title I, and how to monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children. This information is made available to families during school site events and programs; Title I Annual Meetings; LCAP General, EL, and Foster Youth Advisory Committee meetings; and the ACCESS website.

ACCESS provides materials and training to help families improve their children's achievement. Materials and training will be provided through workshops, parenting classes, and Title I Annual Meetings.

ACCESS educates teachers, student services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of family contributions and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate family programs, and build ties between families and the school.

ACCESS coordinates professional development opportunities designed to build the capacity of school staff to work effectively with families from diverse backgrounds. To the extent feasible and appropriate, ACCESS will coordinate and integrate family engagement activities with Safe Schools, English Learner Programs, and other federally-funded programs, and conduct other activities that encourage and support families to more fully participate in their children's education.

ACCESS ensures that information related to school and family programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the families of participating students in a format, and to the extent practicable, a language that families can understand.

ACCESS provides other such reasonable support for family involvement activities as families may request.

ACCESS informs families of the existence and purpose of local and statewide family resource centers that provide training, information, and support to families of participating students.

4. ACCESS coordinates and integrates Title I Part A family engagement strategies with family engagement strategies of other programs.

Title I coordinates strategies with English Learner Programs, Safe Schools, and Probation staff to maximize the effectiveness of family outreach efforts.

5. ACCESS conducts, with the involvement of families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the family involvement policy and uses the findings of the evaluation to design more effective family involvement practices.

ACCESS ensures that the evaluation includes the identification of barriers to greater participation in family involvement activities, with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.

ACCESS uses the evaluation results to design strategies for more effective family involvement, and, if necessary, to recommend changes in the family engagement policy.

6. ACCESS involves families in the activities of schools served by Title I.

ACCESS includes information about school activities at the time of enrollment and promotes attendance at school activities by contacting families via telephone and by mailing flyers to families at home.

To the extent practicable, ACCESS will assist schools with interpreting and translation services or other accommodations needed to encourage participation of families.

Local Board approval date: June 22, 2016