

Howard School District Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

PART I. DISTRICT EXPECTATIONS

Each school district must establish the district's expectations for parent and family engagement.

The **Howard School District** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and families of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the Title I requirements, and include, as a component, a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its district plan.
- In carrying out the Title I parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents and families with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the district plan for Title I is not satisfactory to the parents or families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Department of Public Instruction.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parent involvement with respect to parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance ESSA Section 1116 and will use this definition:

Parental involvement 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 1116 of the ESSA.*

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in South Dakota (i.e., SD PIRC in Sturgis, SD).

PART II. DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY REQUIRED COMPONENTS

1. The Howard School District will take the following actions to involve parent and families in the Joint development of its district parent and family engagement plan:

Each year there will be a parent meeting scheduled with parents invited through the newsletter and advertisement in the local newspaper the Miner County Pioneer to review and revise the parent and family engagement plan.

2. The Howard School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

The district will provide substitutes for teachers when needed, and provide transportation for those parents and staff attending workshops and meetings that will help implement parent involvement programs that work to improve student achievement and performance.

3. The Howard School District will build the schools', parents' and families' capacity for strong parental involvement, 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 schools, provide assistance of its Title I schools, provide assistance to parents and families 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 Title I,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

The district will make available to parent and family workshops and conferences as they become available that will give parents and families an opportunity to understand the topics listed above.

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their children's' academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental and family engagement, by:

The school district will inform parents and families through letters, e-mail, webpage and newsletters of what they as parents can do to help their own child/children improve academically.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I 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 and families 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:

Allowing teachers and staff to attend conferences and workshops that help educate teachers and others with how to work with parents and families as partners.

- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental and family 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 conducts other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

The district will inform agencies as appropriate of parent and family involvement programs that encourage and support parent and family engagement.

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that Title I 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.

The district will print appropriate information in the daily/weekly announcements as appropriate informing parents and families of programs, activities and meetings. The district will see that any parents needing material printed in a different language or format will receive that accommodation so they have an opportunity to be a part of the activities if desired.

4. The Howard School District will coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement Strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: *Special Education Preschool*, by:

Informing the parents of meetings and activities so they have the opportunity to participate.

5. The Howard School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents and families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I schools. the evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family involvement 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 parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental and family involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.

The district will through the elementary conduct a survey concerning the Title I program and parent and family involvement. The Title teachers will conduct the survey and parents will help in the development of the survey.

6. The Howard School District will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the process of school review and improvement:

The district will invite parents to participate on appropriate committees dealing with the process of school review and improvement.

PART III: DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The District Parent and family Engagement 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' and families' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's' academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities:

- As appropriate involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- As needed Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- As needed train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.
- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This District Parent and family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs.

This policy was adopted by the Howard School District on June 5, 2017 the school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children through the mail.

(Signature of Title I Authorized Representative)

(Date)