

# GUIDANCE

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT: TITLE I, PART A

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## INTRODUCTION

Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) under **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** guides Local Educational Agencies (LEA) to develop and distribute a written family engagement policy. The policy must be developed in consultation with parents and families of participating students. ESSA requires that LEAs promote collaboration between, schools, parents and families, in helping students achieve high academic standards.

Research indicates that parent and family involvement help children achieve high academic standards. When schools work together with parents in school activities, and both schools and families engage in shared decision-making regarding children's education, students are more likely to acquire literacy at faster rates. LEAs that foster frequent and effective communication, encouraging si s1TL (ard)-4s2.)Tj0.r (g)6 (i)4r

## LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA) REQUIREMENTS

### LEA Policy—Implementation Requirements

A LEA (district or charter school) may receive funds under Title I, Part A only if:

- x It conducts outreach to all parents and family members;
- x Implements programs, activities, and procedures to involve parents and family members in Title I programs;
- x Plans and implements such programs, activities, and procedures

## LEA Reserves and Allowable Use of Funds

### Reserve funds for parent and family engagement

- x If an LEA receives a Title I allocation greater than \$500,000, the LEA must reserve at least 1 percent of its Title I allocation to help schools to carry out the PFE activities. This provision does not limit LEAs from reserving more than 1 percent.
- x Parents and family members of children receiving Title I services must be involved meaningfully in the decisions about how these funds reserved are allotted for parent involvement activities.
- x Not less than 90 percent of the funds reserved must be distributed to schools served under Title I, Part A, with priority given to high-need schools.
- x Funds reserved by the LEA must be used to implement the activities and strategies of the PFE policy by including at least one of the following:
  - a. **Professional development (PD):** Support schools and nonprofit organizations to provide professional development for local educational agency and school personnel regarding PFE strategies. The PD may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, and other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, parents and family members.
  - b. **Home-based programs:** Support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.
  - c. **Disseminate information:** Widely share best practices focused on PFE, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.
  - d. **Collaborate with community-based organizations:** Provide subgrants to schools so they can collaborate, with community-based or other organizations, or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.
  - e. **Other activities:** Engage in any other activities and strategies that LEA determines are appropriate and consistent with the PFE policy;

## SCHOOL POLICY REQUIREMENTS

### School Parent Family and Engagement Policy

Each Title I school must consult and jointly develop a written PFE policy and distribute it to parents and family members of participating children. The PFE policy must:

- x

If the LEA has a school district-level PFE policy that applies to all parents and family members in all schools, the LEA may amend that policy to meet the requirements of this subsection.

If the LEA plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the LEA must send any parent comments along with the plan when submitting the plan to the State.

### Parent and Family Policy—Involvement at the School

Each school served under Title I must:

- x Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend. The purpose of this annual meeting is to inform parents of their school’s participation in Title I and to explain the program requirements, and the right of the parents to be involved;
- x Offer a number of flexible meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with Title I funds, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parents.

Shared Responsibilities fo Student Academic Success

