

District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Hardin County Schools 2024-2025



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Hardin County Schools receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

Hardin County Schools agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state department of education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:
Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - (C) families 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; and
 - (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

Hardin County Schools will involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

The district will include parents/families in the development of the district parent/family engagement policy, the district improvement plan, and school improvement plans by invitations to district and school-level meetings and by information shared on the district and school websites, school-level Title I site-based meetings, annual Title I school-level meetings, and annual effectiveness surveys. Parents/families will be encouraged to participate and share ideas, suggestions, and/or feedback regarding all required documents.

Hardin County Schools will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

Hardin County Schools Federal Programs director works with each Title I school to assist the principals and school leadership in the allocable expenditures from school allocations, as well as to provide assistance in parent and family engagement. Through the school-based Title I site-based meetings, the director works with the staff, parents, and community stakeholders to review/revise parent and family engagement policies/plans, school– parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements. Additionally, through school level teams at all Title I schools, family engagement events are organized and conducted. Community partners and stakeholders support school/district parent engagement events by providing materials, handouts, and/or informational booths (i.e. health fairs, college/career fairs, etc.). Annual surveys are provided for parents to determine specific needs/topics for events and changes, improvements, and perception regarding school climate and culture.

Hardin County Schools will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual review/evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The review/evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by families in 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). The review/evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the review/evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Each spring, Hardin County Schools Title I Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator working with Title I schools, will conduct surveys to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the school level policies. The school level Parent/Family Councils will then meet to review results. Additionally, through the district Planning meetings, the district policy will be evaluated to determine necessary changes. Any necessary modifications will be updated to insure effectiveness in both the district and school level policies.

Hardin County Schools 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 parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Hardin County Schools Federal Programs Department allocates at least 1% of the total allocation to Title I schools. Additionally, Title I funds are allocated for the district Family Engagement Coordinator position as well as funds designated for parent/family engagement events and/or workshops. The amount allocated from Title I funds will be shared with parents at district and school-level meetings, on the district website, and at the Parent Advisory Committee meetings. The results from the annual survey conducted each fall will also be used to determine funding expenditures based on needs.

Hardin County Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs such as; Head Start, State-run preschool programs, and Title III language instructional programs that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Hardin County Schools will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build families' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy and math to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and families in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards;
- The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators.

Title I schools provide activities to increase parent/family engagement and student achievement. Additionally, district leadership and teachers facilitate workshops in reading, mathematics, and STEAM.

Hardin County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools and families, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and schools.

- ***Providing necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.***
- ***Training families to enhance the engagement of other families.***
- ***Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting telephone conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, and with families who are unable to attend those conferences at school.***
- ***Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement.***

ADOPTION

This policy was adopted by **Hardin County Schools** on **March 20, 2024** and will be in effect for the period of the 2024-2025 school year.

Theresa McCormick, Federal Programs Supervisor
(Signature of Authorized Official)

March 20, 2024

(Date)