

School, Parent, and Family Engagement Policy

Watt Hardison Elementary

2024-2025 School Year



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Watt Hardison Elementary 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(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Watt Hardison Elementary agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, 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 school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parent and 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 ESSA.

- Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components: JOINTLY DEVELOPED Watt Hardison Elementary will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible. This compact was jointly developed in collaboration with the following representation:
 - School leadership
 - Families
 - Community partners
 - Students

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Watt Hardison Elementary will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Annual Title I meeting will be held August 27th, 2024 at 5:30p.m. Families will be informed of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the families' rights to be involved. During this meeting, we will also discuss the importance of family reading and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Watt Hardison Elementary will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:
- Watt Hardison Elementary is committed to frequent two-way communication with families concerning student learning. The following are examples of ways in which we will communicate with our families:
 - Daily parent communication folders
 - School-cast for schoolwide
 - Announcements and events
 - Skyward Parent Portal for up to the minute grade information
 - Positive calls home
 - Google classrooms
 - Remind App
 - Social Media
 - Newsletters

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Watt Hardison Elementary will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

The leadership committee of Watt Hardison Elementary will review and revise the School- Parent Compact with representation from all levels of staff and administration as well as request parent and student input so that all stakeholders have an equal voice.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS If applicable, Watt Hardison Elementary will take the following actions to involve the families 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 by: The leadership committee of Watt Hardison Elementary has opted to allocate approximately four percent of our overall budget on parent and family engagement activities. This budget will be shared at our annual meeting and families give us input on how we spend this by filling out surveys, and give us feedback at family engagement events.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Watt Hardison Elementary will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Partnering with local churches to provide food packs for students
- Local senior citizens become reading partners with students
- Local dentists come in to provide dental care
- Wellness checks of student health

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Watt Hardison Elementary will provide training to educate teachers,

specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, 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 the school by:

- having PLs on dealing with students and families who have experienced trauma
- Our staff library has multiple resources on working with students and families by authors such as Eric Jenson
- Coordinating with community partners and other schools as we begin working on becoming a STEM certified school.

Watt Hardison Elementary will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by providing different types of family engagement events. These events will focus on different grade levels, different subject areas, and will be held at various days and times throughout the year.