

1: Jointly Developed Expectations and Objectives

Describe how the LEA works with parents and families to develop and review relevant plans, policies, and strategies related to engagement, including establishing expectations and objectives.

Guiding Questions

- **1.1:** *How does the LEA involve parents in the development and review of the District Engagement Plan, the School Improvement/Title I School wide/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and, if applicable, the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plans?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(a)]
- **1.2:** *What efforts have been made to ensure adequate representation of parents and families of participating children in the process (Title I families)?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(1)]
- **1.3:** *How has the Engagement Coordinator and/or Committee worked with the School Improvement/District Support Committees in order to incorporate the Engagement Plan into the School wide Plan?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)]
- **1.4:** *What expectations and measurable objectives has the LEA established for meaningful family and community engagement?*
[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)]

Goal 1: How will the LEA foster effective parental engagement strategies and support partnership among school, families, and the community to improve student achievement?

To improve student achievement, the LEA will foster effective Family Engagement strategies and support partnership among school, families, and the community by the following:

- The Parent Coordinator, Sonya Launius, Parent Facilitators, Amanda Barnes and Christy Thompson, teachers and other staff members working in Title I schools will meet with families to refine the Family Engagement Plans which includes the Parent/Student/Teacher compact. Students will be provided the opportunity at school to co-create the compact in each classroom while at school.

Once the final document is completed, it will be signed as a written agreement by teachers, families, and students at the beginning of each year and placed on file at the school. At the time the compact is signed, the parent will be provided a statement attesting to the district's commitment to parental involvement.

- The parent coordinator, Sonya Launius, along with parent facilitators from each school, Christy Thompson at BHS and Amanda Barnes at BES will conduct a family committee meeting of teachers and family members to review and update the Family Engagement plan and file a copy of the plan with the Division of Elementary and Secondary Education by August 1, of each year.

[The completed plan will be constructed to conform to Act 603 and 307 and will carry out the Family Engagement requirements of Act 397 and requirements in section 1118. The plan will describe the specific components and activities to be conducted by each school in the district as well as what the district will uphold.]

- A Family Engagement Center will be open at Bearden Elementary and Bearden High School. The center will serve as a place where the school and the home can meet to share ideas about the education process, where the parent can obtain information about how they can assist at home and in the school, and serve as a resource for families as they become involved with the school. Informative Family Kits will be placed in the center if families need additional copies.

- During a planning meeting, within emails to each parent, and posts on ClassDojo, families will be asked what they think a Family Engagement Center should look like, provide, and how it would best serve them as a family unit.

- An annual Title I meeting will be held with families and citizens of the school community. The meeting will include a review of the school improvement plans. Families will have an opportunity to ask questions about the improvement plan, achievement data, curriculum, and assessments used in each school.

- Families will have the opportunity to ask questions about each section of the improvement plan which involves the new curriculum implementation; Benchmark Readers Workshop in grades K-3 along with phonicsFIRST, 95% Comprehension and Structures in grades 4 and 5, MyPerspectives ELA in grades 6-12. Expectations of students through these programs will be shared with families.

- The district will ensure that families of children with disabilities or limited English proficiency have the same access as other families including information in a language and from which they can understand.

- The district will appoint a parent facilitator for each school. Christy Thompson is the Family Engagement facilitator for Bearden High School, 833 423 2733. Amanda Barnes is the Family Engagement facilitator for Bearden Elementary School, 833 423 2733.

- The district will implement successful programs and strategies to involve families in all aspects of the school and pair these families with school staff to improve student achievement. The programs will address, but will not be limited to, the items specified in Act 307 of 2007. Components of such programs will include 1.) informational packets being developed, printed, and distributed to families at the beginning of the school year, 2.) Family engagement meetings scheduled and conducted a minimum of two times during the year, 3.) volunteer resource books will be developed by teachers working closely with families and the parent facilitator, 4.) a process for families to follow and resolve concerns will be placed in the student handbook and distributed to families and placed in the school, 5.) families of high school students will be informed through two seminars as to how they can be involved in decisions affecting their students, 6.) families will be encouraged to help organize and take part in a Family Engagement committee. 7) Email addresses will be collected for families willing to serve on the committee at Open House. 8.) Some items can be sent for review by email before face to face meetings or in lieu of having to commit to a face to face meeting

- A Family Engagement committee will be held each year to review the effectiveness of the district Family Engagement Plan. Families will be included in the revision process as well as the planning process. Other items will be reviewed and revisited in these meetings such as the School Improvement Plan, the review of the Student/Parent Handbook, and the District Mission Statement and Core Values.
- The district will use the E-Notes calling system, local newspapers and radio, Remind, ClassDojo and student communication folders/planners to inform families of student activities, meetings, school updates, programs, etc.

2: Building Staff Capacity

Describe how the district will support all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective engagement practices.

Guiding Questions

- **2.1:** *How will the district provide support and technical assistance to all of its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective Family Engagement practices? This includes*
 - *jointly-developing school engagement plans*
 - *implementing effective parent and family involvement activities*
 - *jointly-developing school-parent compacts*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)(B)]
- **2.2:** *How does the LEA build staff capacity to work with families as equal partners? This may include workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used to ensure ALL school staff are aware of:*
 - *the value and utility of contributions of parents*
 - *how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners*
 - *how to implement and coordinate parent programs*
 - *how to build ties between parents and the school*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(3)]
- **2.3:** *How will the district ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is provided to parents in a format and in a language that parents can understand (to the extent practicable)?*
 - *How are you ensuring that relevant information is provided in a variety of ways? (For example, paper copies made available, as well as social media posts, website links, parent apps, etc.?)*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(5)]
- Teachers will be provided with two hours and administrators with three hours of Family Engagement training every four years to enhance the involvement of families in all phases of the school program.

- The district will support a representative from each of the Bearden Schools to attend the Family Engagement meetings with members of the South Central Co-op and DESE team members as they come available.

- Each building representative will provide opportunities for teacher input during PLC meetings that are held after school each month.
- Building representatives will take part in conducting fun activities for teachers and students throughout the school year that families are allowed to attend, such as Fall Harvest festivals, classroom parties, field day, field trips, awards ceremonies, etc.

3: Building Parent Capacity

Describe how the LEA supports families in helping with their student's academic success.

Guiding Questions

- **3.1:** *How does the LEA provide assistance to families in understanding the following?*
 - *the challenging State academic standards*
 - *State and local academic assessments*
 - *the requirements of Title I, Part A*
 - *how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children*

[ESSA § 1116(e)(1)]
- **3.2:** *What types of materials and training does the LEA provide to help parents work with their children to improve achievement? This may include:*
 - *literacy training*
 - *technology training, including education about copyright piracy and safe practices*
 - *resources that describe or assist with the child's curriculum*
 - *other activities such as workshops, conferences, online resources like tutorials or webinars, and*

any equipment or other materials, including parent resource centers

[ESSA § 1116(e)(2); ESSA § 1116(e)(4)]
- **3.3:** *In what ways does the LEA conduct outreach to ALL Title I, Part A parents and family members (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)?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(1)]

Goal 3: How will the district build the school's capacity for strong parental involvement?

The district will build the school's capacity for strong family engagement in the following ways:

- The district will support two district-wide family centers, one housed at each campus. The center will be open each school day and one evening each week.

- Building representatives will be supported by the district coordinator and funded by the district.

- The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will involve families and students as speakers at Family Engagement meetings to build relationships and encourage stronger parental involvement. Presentations will be presented during the annual Grandparent's day luncheon with Elementary students and Thanksgiving dinner where families are invited to attend lunch with families and other traditional activities during the school year. The High School will involve students and families in many of the activities held such as the Haunted History Museum, etc.

- The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will ensure all families are notified of Family Engagement meetings/activities and encourage their attendance, suggestions, concerns and ideas through printed material as well as using the E-Notes automated communication system, Bearden Social Media pages, the school website, the district Learning Management System, and ClassDojo at the elementary level.

- The Family Engagement Coordinator, Sonya Launius, will combine school committees such as the district School Improvement Team and Family Engagement committee to evaluate the district plan ensuring it is aligned with state and national goals for parental involvement. These meetings will ensure families' ideas are included in district planning.

The Family Engagement Coordinator, Sonya Launius, will provide all families and parent(s)/guardian(s) of students receiving Title I services information such areas as national, state, and local education goals in a way that is easy to understand and in their appropriate language as well as provide them with access to school personnel so they can contact the school with questions, concerns, ideas, etc. The school website, ClassDojo and LMS will be another avenue for families to gain access to communicating with teachers.

4: Coordination

Describe how the LEA will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports, services, and resources to families that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children.

Guiding Questions

- **4.1:** *How does the district coordinate and integrate programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs? Some examples include:*
 - *public preschool programs such as Head Start*
 - *organizations/activities to help students transition to elementary, middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers*
 - *wraparound services that allow families to send their children to school ready and able to focus*

on learning
[ESSA § 1116(e)(4)]

Goal 4: How will the district provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement?

The district will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement in the following ways:

- Activities will be conducted to ensure that all children have a smooth transition into the public school and kindergarten programs which will include the following: 1.) Devonda Moore, Principal, Kindergarten teachers, and early childhood program leaders from our local ABC PreK and Headstart will collaborate in order to conduct a meeting with families and their children to inform them of the requirements and items needed to begin school, 2.) provide children with a walk-through of the facility and a visit to a kindergarten classroom, 3.) invite families and their children to appropriate school functions or activities, 4.) inform families of the schedules, activities, and any changes prior to registration. This same procedure will be followed for all families and students entering a school for the first year.
- District funds will be used to provide activities for families to encourage those persons to take a more active role in the education of children and to become equal partners with the school. Activities may include parent meetings, forums, and other activities that promote responsible parenting and these meetings will be coordinated with the Haunted History Museum, a Fall Harvest Carnival, a Daddy-Daughter/Mommy-Son Dance, and a Family Fun STEM Night.
- Two parent-teacher conferences will be held at each school during the year. Additional conferences may be scheduled as needed.
- A teacher at each school will be selected to serve as a parent facilitator to organize and manage family engagement activities at the school. Christy Thompson is the Family Engagement facilitator for Bearden High School, 833 423 2733. Amanda Barnes is the Family Engagement facilitator for Bearden Elementary School, 833 423 2733. The district will pay the parent facilitators a stipend for assuming duties such as assisting in the development of the Family Engagement Plan, organizing and conducting parent meetings, keeping updated materials in the parent center, and keeping teachers and families informed of upcoming family engagement events.

The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, and the two family engagement facilitators will conduct ongoing site visits to observe Family Engagement practices among teachers, administrators, and classified employees. Conversations will take place in team meetings and PLC meetings concerning activities that will promote Family Engagement to gain input from all members of the district. Many members of the district are parents themselves and are associated with many other families outside of the district. The insight gained will assist in keeping the plan current.

The district will employ a Family Engagement coordinator to work closely with families and the parent facilitators to develop and meet the requirements of the Family Engagement Plan. The coordinator will monitor the Family Engagement practices as well as ensure flexible times are available to meet parent needs for meetings. The Family Engagement coordinator and facilitators will pass out Family Engagement Plans and other printed information in the car-pick-up line while parent(s)/guardian(s) are waiting for school to dismiss; develop and hand-out fliers inviting them to the parent facility explaining

the use and times available; assist during open-house, parent-teacher conferences, and other night events to ensure parent(s)/guardian(s) sign-in, receive materials, and participate in activities to promote the use of technology and literacy/math strategies.

5: Evaluation and Reservation

Describe how the LEA evaluates the content and effectiveness of its Engagement Program in improving the academic quality of all schools. Describe how the LEA reserves and uses Title I funds for Family Engagement programs and activities.

Guiding Questions

- **5.1:** *How does the LEA review and approve the Engagement Plan for each school?*
 - *Describe the process used to ensure each school plan is in full compliance with applicable codes.*

[ADE Rules Governing Parental Involvement Section 4.03]
- **5.2:** *What process does the LEA utilize to conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Engagement Program?*
 - *Who is responsible?*
 - *When will it be conducted?*
 - *How will parent input be solicited?*
 - *How will it be disseminated?*
 - *Ensure the evaluation of the Engagement Program in Title I schools includes:*
 - *barriers to greater participation by parents (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 needs of parents and family members to assist with their children's learning, including engaging with school personnel and teachers*
 - *strategies to support successful school and family interactions*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)(i-iii); A.C.A. § 6-15-1702(b)(9)]
- **5.3:** *How does the LEA use the findings from the evaluation to develop strategies for more effective engagement and to revise, if necessary, Family Engagement policies in order to improve the academic quality of all schools?*
 - *How will the findings of the evaluation be shared with families and the community?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(2)(E)]
- **5.4:** *If The LEA is required to set aside funds for Family Engagement (as part of receiving a Title I, Part A allocation greater than \$500,000),*
 - *How is the LEA spending those funds?*

- *How is the LEA determining the priority of how funds are spent?*
- *Who is involved in determining that?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(A)]

- **5.5:** *How does the LEA/school provide opportunities for parents and family members to be involved in providing input into how the funds are used? How will the district share the budget for engagement activities and programs with parents and family members?*

[ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(B); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(C); ESSA § 1116(a)(3)(D)(i-v)]

Goal 5: How will the district conduct, with the involvement of parents, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Family Engagement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation?

The district and the Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual meeting with the Family Engagement committee to evaluate, update, and revise the Family Engagement Plan. The committee will continually search for strategies for increasing parental involvement, evaluate the content, and identify barriers to greater participation. The Family Engagement survey will be given to families annually, each school will conduct regular parent meetings, and a representative will attend the annual Family Engagement conference to keep abreast of new requirements and successful ideas and strategies. The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will make sure the evaluation findings, recommendations made, and suggestions are used in the revision process of the school plans as well as the district plan and disseminate the revised plans to all families through parent meetings, school events, and the car-rider line as parent(s)/guardian(s) wait for their children to exit the building. The survey results from the HRS survey provided by DESE will be used to help determine the need for revisions in the Parent Engagement plans.

Surveys will be conducted with families annually to determine interest levels for volunteering and to gather feedback on the effectiveness of the Family Engagement Plan. The Family Engagement committee will tabulate the results, publish the survey instrument used, and provide information on the results of the survey. The committee will use the results to plan and implement more effective programs in the future. The committee will use the High Reliability Schools survey results to assist in creating goals for the School Improvement plans for each building.

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The district will build the school's capacity for strong family engagement in the following ways:

- The district will support two district-wide parent centers, one housed at each campus. The center will be open each school day and one evening each week.
- The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will involve families and students as speakers at Family Engagement meetings to build relationships and encourage stronger parental involvement.
- The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will ensure all families are notified of Family Engagement meetings and encourage their attendance, suggestions, concerns and ideas through printed

material as well as using the E-Notes automated communication system, Bearden Social Media pages, the school website, the district Learning Management System, and ClassDojo at the elementary level.

- The Family Engagement Coordinator, Sonya Launius, will combine school committees such as the district School Improvement Team and Family Engagement committee to evaluate the district plan ensuring it is aligned with state and national goals for parental involvement. These meetings will ensure families' ideas are included in district planning.

The Family Engagement Coordinator, Sonya Launius, will provide all parent(s)/guardian(s) and families of students receiving Title I services information such areas as national, state, and local education goals in a way that is easy to understand and in their appropriate language as well as provide them with access to school personnel so they can contact the school with questions, concerns, ideas, etc. The school website, ClassDojo and LMS will be another avenue for families to gain access to communicating with teachers.

Goal 4: How will the district conduct, with the involvement of families, ongoing evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Family Engagement policy as it relates to strategies for increasing parental participation and identifying barriers to greater participation?

The district and the Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual meeting with the Family Engagement committee to evaluate, update, and revise the Family Engagement Plan. The committee will continually search for strategies for increasing parental involvement, evaluate the content, and identify barriers to greater participation. The Family Engagement survey will be given to families annually, each school will conduct regular parent meetings, and a representative will attend the annual Family Engagement conference to keep abreast of new requirements and successful ideas and strategies. The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will make sure the evaluation findings, recommendations made, and suggestions are used in the revision process of the school plans as well as the district plan and disseminate the revised plans to all families through parent meetings, school events, and the car-rider line as families wait for their children to exit the building. The survey results from the HRS survey provided by DESE will be used to help determine the need for revisions in the Parent Engagement plans.

Goal 2: How will the district provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement?

The district will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement in the following ways:

- District funds will be used to provide activities for families to encourage those persons to take a more active role in the education of children and to become equal partners with the school. Activities may include parent meetings, forums, and other activities that promote responsible parenting and these meetings will be coordinated with the Haunted History Museum, a Fall Harvest Carnival, a Daddy-Daughter/Mommy-Son Dance, and a Family Fun STEM Night.

- Teachers will be provided with two hours and administrators with three hours of Family Engagement training every four years to enhance the involvement of families in all phases of the school program.
- The district will support a representative from each of the Bearden Schools to attend the annual Family Engagement Conference.
- Two parent-teacher conferences will be held at each school during the year. Additional conferences may be scheduled as needed.
- Surveys will be conducted with families annually to determine interest levels for volunteering and to gather feedback on the effectiveness of the Family Engagement Plan. The Family Engagement committee will tabulate the results, publish the survey instrument used, and provide information on the results of the survey. The committee will use the results to plan and implement more effective programs in the future. The committee will use the High Reliability Schools survey results to assist in creating goals for the School Improvement plans for each building.

A teacher at each school will be selected to serve as a parent facilitator to organize and manage family engagement activities at the school. Christy Thompson is the Family Engagement facilitator for Bearden High School, 833 423 2733. Amanda Barnes is the Family Engagement facilitator for Bearden Elementary School, 833 423 2733. The district will pay the parent facilitators a stipend for assuming duties such as assisting in the development of the Family Engagement Plan, organizing and conducting parent meetings, keeping updated materials in the parent center, and keeping teachers and families informed of upcoming family engagement events.

The Family Engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, and the two family engagement facilitators will conduct ongoing site visits to observe Family Engagement practices among teachers, administrators, and classified employees. Conversations will take place in team meetings and PLC meetings concerning activities that will promote Family Engagement to gain input from all members of the district. Many members of the district are parents themselves and are associated with many other families outside of the district. The insight gained will assist in keeping the plan current.

The district will employ a Family Engagement coordinator to work closely with families and the family facilitators to develop and meet the requirements of the Family Engagement Plan. The coordinator will monitor the Family Engagement practices as well as ensure flexible times are available to meet family needs for meetings. The Family Engagement coordinator and facilitators will pass out Family Engagement Plans and other printed information in the car-pick-up line while parent(s)/guardian(s) are waiting for school to dismiss; develop and hand-out fliers inviting them to the family facility explaining the use and times available; assist during open-house, parent-teacher conferences, and other night events to ensure parent(s)/guardian(s) sign-in, receive materials, and participate in activities to promote the use of technology and literacy/math strategies.

Goal 5: How will the district involve families in the joint development of the district Title I Application under Section 1112 (ACSIP)?

The district family engagement coordinator, Sonya Launius, will involve families in the joint development of the district Title I Application under Section 1112 by including families as members on the School Improvement Plan team and other district and school committees.

- These committees will be joined together to form a Family Engagement Committee which will be used to discuss ways to address the needs of the students in each school as well as district needs.
- Family input and membership of such committees is encouraged by addressing this information at the annual report to the public as well as at each Family Engagement meetings during the school year.
- There will be a Title I School Improvement Plan meeting each Fall to review the School Improvement Plan, achievement data, and services provided with Title I funds.
- A family resource center will be housed at each school supported by the district. Each Family Center will have an employee to stay one day per week after school for families to utilize the materials, the computers, software, printers, etc.