

Book	District Policy
Section	J - STUDENTS
Title	Student Goals and Objectives: Parent and Family Engagement
Code	JAB
Status	Active
Legal	20 USC Sec. 6316 (12-10-2015)
Adopted	February 26, 2002
Last Revised	January 12, 2016
Last Reviewed	January 12, 2016

Parent and Family Engagement: Welcoming parents and family to participate in their children's education.

- A. The Elko County School District Board of Trustees recognizes that parent and family engagement is a key to academic achievement. The term "parent" refers to any care giver who assumes responsibility for nurturing and caring for children, including parents, grandparents, legal guardians, aunts, uncles, foster parents, stepparents, etc.

Parents and families provide the primary educational environment for children; consequently, parents and families should be encouraged to be vital and necessary partners with the Elko County School District throughout their students' school career. The Elko County School District, in collaboration with parents, teachers, students and administrators, will establish and develop efforts that enhance and encourage parent and family engagement.

- B. In order to encourage parent and family engagement, six essential elements shall be promoted:
1. Communication between home and school is on-going, two-way, and meaningful: Effective communication involves school-initiated contact with the parent and parent-initiated contact with the school. Both parties provide vital information about a child's strengths, challenges, and accomplishments. To effectively communicate, appropriate steps must be taken to allow clear communication for all participants.
 2. Responsible parenting is promoted and supported: The family plays a primary role in a child's education, and the Elko County School District respects and honors traditions and activities unique to this community's cultural practices and beliefs. Parents and family should have the opportunity to be linked to programs and resources within the community that provide support services to families.
 3. Parents and families play an integral role in assisting student learning: Educators recognize and acknowledge parents' and families' roles as the integral and primary facilitator of their children's education. Research demonstrates that student achievement increases when parents and families are actively involved in the learning process.
 4. Schools are open and inviting to parents and families and actively seek parental and family support and assistance for school programs: Parents and families are welcome in Elko County School District schools, and their support and assistance are sought. Parents and families should feel they are empowered to talk to district personnel at all levels when they feel it necessary. Capitalizing on the expertise and skills of parents and families strengthens the family, school and community partnership.
 5. Parents and families are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families: Parents, families, and educators have a joint responsibility to make informed decisions related to all aspects of the education provided to each Elko County School District student. The role of parents and families in shared decision making should be continually evaluated, refined, and expanded. Parental and family opinions and views should be respected and valued.
 6. Community resources are made available to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning: Elko County School District schools, parents and families should cultivate

relationships with additional members of the community in order to promote and effectively increase educational opportunities for children. Together, parents, families, educators and community members are encouraged to join efforts toward identifying and promoting community resources and innovative programs for strengthening schools, families, and student learning.

Providing all Elko County School District's children with equal access to a quality education is the Elko County School District's primary goal. It is vital that all partners in the learning community (parents, family, educators, communities, etc.) have the opportunity to provide input and access resources to meet this goal. Developing cooperative efforts and providing access to community resources will enhance improved academic achievement for all students.

I. Additional Requirements for Title I Schools

(a.) Districtwide Policy

The Elko County School District shall conduct outreach to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs assisted under Title I consistent with 20 USC Sec. 6316. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

- (1.) The policy shall be incorporated into the Elko County School District's plan developed under 20 USC Sec. 6312.
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- (2.) The Elko County School District will -
 - (A) involve parents and family members in jointly developing the Elko County School District plan under 20 USC Sec. 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of 20 USC Sec. 1111(d);
 - (B) provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the Elko County School District in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement 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;
 - (C) coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs;
 - (D) conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under Title I, including identifying -
 - (i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this Policy (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);
 - (ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
 - (iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions;
 - (E) use the findings of such evaluation in subparagraph (D) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, this Policy; and
 - (F) involve parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the Elko County School District to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.
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- (3.) Reservation
 - (A.) In general
 - The Elko County School District shall reserve at least 1 percent of its allocation under Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 to assist schools to carry out the activities described in this Policy, except that this subparagraph shall not apply if 1 percent of such allocation under Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 for the fiscal year for which the determination is made is \$5,000 or less. Nothing in this subparagraph shall be construed to limit the Elko County School District from reserving more than 1 percent of its allocation under Title I, Part A, Subpart 2 to assist schools to carry out activities described in this Policy.
 - (B.) Parent and family member input.
 - Parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I shall be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved under subparagraph (A) are allotted for parent and family engagement activities.
 - (C.) Distribution of funds.
 - Not less than 90 percent of the funds reserved under subparagraph (A) shall be distributed to schools served under Title I, with priority given to high-need schools.

- (D.) Use of funds.
- Funds reserved under subparagraph (A) by the Elko County School District shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with this Policy, including no less than one (1) of the following:
- (i.) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for the Elko County School District and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members;
- (ii.) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school;
- (iii.) Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members;
- (iv.) Collaborating, or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement; and
- (v.) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the Elko County School District determines are appropriate and consistent with this policy.

(b.) Individual Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policies

(1.) In General

Each Title I School within the Elko County School District shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy for that school, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of subsections (c) through (f) of this Policy. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community that the school is located in and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

(2.) Parental Comments

If the plan under 20 USC Sec. 6312 is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the Elko County School District shall submit any parent comments with such plan when the Elko County School District submits the plan to the State.

(c.) Policy Involvement

Each Title I School shall -

- (1.) convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under Title I and to explain the requirements of Title I and the right of the parents to be involved.
- (2.) offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under Title I, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parents and family engagement;
- (3.) involve parents, in an organized, on going, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, including the planning, review and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under 20 USC Sec. 6314(b), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children;
- (4.) provide parents of participating children -
 - (A) timely information about programs under Title I;
 - (B) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
 - (C) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible; and
- (5.) if the school wide program plan under 20 USC sec. 6314(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the Elko County School District.

(d.) Shared Responsibilities for High Student Academic Achievement

As a component of the school-level parent and family engagement policy developed under subsection (b) of this Policy, each Title I School shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under Title I as a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. Such compact shall --

- (1.) describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under Title I to meet the challenging State academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time; and
- (2.) address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum--
 - (A.) parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
 - (B.) frequent reports to parents on their children's progress;
 - (C.) reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and
 - (D.) ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

(e.) Building Capacity for Involvement

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, each school and the Elko County School District assisted under Title I -

- (1.) shall provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or the Elko County School District, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
- (2.) shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement;
- (3.) shall educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
- (4.) shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement 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 parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- (5.) shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
- (6.) may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training;
- (7.) may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under Title I if the Elko County School District has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training;
- (8.) may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- (9.) may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- (10.) may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation;

- (11.) may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- (12.) may establish a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in programs supported under this Policy;
- (13.) may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities; and
- (14.) shall provide such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under this Policy as parents may request.

(f.) Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of Title I, the Elko County School District and the schools within it, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under 20 USC Sec. 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

(g.) Family Engagement in Education Programs

While the State of Nevada is operating a program under part E of the Title IV, the Elko County School District and each school that receives assistance under Title I shall inform parents and organizations of the existence of the program.

(h.) Review

The Elko County School District shall submit this policy to the State Department of Education for review.

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