



**THOMAS JEFFERSON**  
**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**  
BETHLEHEM AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## 2020-2021 Parent and Family Engagement Plan

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement section of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116(b) requires each Title I school to develop a written parent and family engagement policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1116. The school must ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities are sent to the parents of Title I children in a format and in a language the parents can understand.

The policy must be:

- ❑ developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents and family members of Title I children;
- ❑ written in an understandable format and provided in a language parents can understand;
- ❑ distributed to all parents and family members;
- ❑ made available to the local community; and
- ❑ updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents, family members and the school.

Parents and family members will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This policy will be reviewed at the beginning of each school year at a PTA/PTO/Parent Committee meeting. *(ESSA, Section 1116(b)(1))*

The principal will hold the Annual Title I Meeting as a part of the school's Open House event at the beginning of the school year. All parents and family members are invited and encouraged to attend. At this meeting, parents and family members will be informed of the school's participation in Title I, requirement will be explained, and involvement will be encouraged. *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(1))*

The school will offer a flexible number of meetings, in the morning and/or the evening. *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(2))*

The principal will involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement program. *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(3))*

At the annual Open House event at the beginning of the school year, the principal will provide parents and family members of participating children with timely information about the Title I program. In addition, parents and family members are always welcome to ask the principal and teachers questions. *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(A)).*

At the annual Open House event at the beginning of the school year, the principal will provide parents and family members of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards. *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(B))*

The principal will provide, 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. *(ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(C))*

The principal will involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Schoolwide Program Plan. This will occur at the beginning of the school year at a PTA/PTO/Parent Committee meeting. *(ESSA, Section 1116(5))*

A school-parent compact will be jointly developed with parents and family members and the compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and the parents will build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the State's high standards. The compact shall –

- 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 this part 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 *(ESSA, Section (d)(1))*; and
- address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum—
  - 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;
  - frequent reports to parents on their children's progress;
  - reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; and

- o 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 (*ESSA, Section 1116(d)(2)(A-D)*)

At the annual Open House event at the beginning of the school year, the principal will provide assistance to parents and family members in understanding the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. In addition, teachers/principal will be able to address additional questions as the school year progresses. (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(1)*)

The school will 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 involvement. (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(1)*)

At a faculty meeting at the beginning of the school year, the principal will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and family members and the school. (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(3)*)

the school 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, that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children. (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(4)*)

The school will utilize translation services provided by the Bethlehem Area School District's Center for Language Assessment (CLA) office to ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and family members of participating children in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand. (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(5)*)

The school, to the extent practicable, will 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). (*ESSA, Section 1116(7)(f)*)