



ROUGH DRAFT Susan B. English School
PARENT & FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As authorized under ESEA, as amended

2021-2022

Revised: Oct. 19, 2021

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Overview

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Susan B. English School 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)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. The policy establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in Section 1116 of the ESEA, as amended:

- Involve parents, 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 schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. [§1116(c)(3)]
- Update the school parent and family member policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents and family members of participating children, and make the parental involvement policy available to the local community. [§1116(b)(1)]
- In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, 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 Section 1111 of the ESEA, as amended, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. [§1116(e)(4)]
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the ESEA, as amended, 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 district. [§1116(c)(5)]
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
 - Parent Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
 - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - that parents 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
 - the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116. [§8101(39)]

Required Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

Joint Development

Susan B. English School will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, 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.

Parents and family members will be involved in the development of this policy by reading this document on Oct. 20, 2021, and providing commentary up to (and during) the Spring 2022 Title I Committee Meeting, on February 23, 2022, upon which time, any necessary revisions will be made.

Typically, parental involvement includes...

two-way communication between school staff and parents,
providing support for student learning at home,
volunteering in the school,
and Parent Advisory Council participation.

Annual Title I, Part A Meeting

Susan B. English School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I, Part A program, the nature of the Title I, Part A program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

During the 2021-22 school year, the Annual Title I meeting took place inside the first Parent Advisory Committee meeting, on September 30, 2021 at 7:00pm, in the Science Room of the school (but also attended virtually over Zoom).

During this meeting, the purpose of Title I funds for 2021-22 school year was explained according to the target-assistance model, whereby money is allocated for hiring a Title I tutor to assist with K-2 literacy, purchasing K-2 literacy tools, and \$514 remains for any activity that promotes parent & family engagement. Although last year's data was not available on the school rating index, the previous year's data provided information about K-2 student achievement in English Language Arts. For parent requirements, a letter was given (and posted online) explaining that parents have the right to know certifications and qualifications of teachers. No school-parent compact was distributed at this time. Parents will provide input into the school-parent compact during the Fall 2021 Title I Committee meeting, and parents will have a chance to sign the school-parent compact during Parent Teacher Conferences in October 2021. The schoolwide plan and the school parent and family policy are the same document (which is the document you are reading now). This document will be presented during the Fall 2021 Title I Committee meeting.

Communications

Susan B. English School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about Title I, Part A 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 parental involvement.
- 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.
- 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.
- Information related to the school and parent and family member programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Hard copies of the Oct. 20, 2021 version of the Susan B. English School Parent & Family Engagement Policy were also made available to in-real-life participants of the Fall 2021 Title I Committee Meeting. For Zoom participants (or anyone unable to attend the Fall 2021 Title I Committee Meeting), Susan B. English School Parent & Family Engagement Policy is being emailed. After review and revisions, the document will be posted to the school website. Any information about upcoming parent programs, meetings, and activities will be communicated to parents via mass email and/or the school marquee. The information will be in a written format, and (to the extent practicable) and in a language that parents can understand.

School-Parent Compact

Susan B. English School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children 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.

This year, as part of our School Development Plan, Susan B. English is collecting data on the reasons for student absences, in an attempt to ameliorate these reasons. Cooperation with parents to improve student attendance by overcoming obstacles related to student attendance is highly valued. Students who take the time to read books at home, gain more exposure to the practice of literary fluency. School staff will allow students to check books out of the school library, while parents will encourage their children to read at home.

Formative and summative assessments, rank students according to their peers at the district, state, and/or national level. These rankings are made available to parents upon request and during parent teacher conferences. Improving one's ranking against one's peers is one indication that a child is working toward excellence. Another indication is that a child begins to enjoy reading for pleasure, and begins reading at home without prompting. State standards for literacy (as well as other subjects) are posted at Alaska's Department of Early Childhood & Education website. Parents, family, and students are encouraged to review these state standards. School staff monitor these standards as they develop lessons and curriculum.

A rough draft of the school-parent compact is being reviewed and possibly revised based on parent input during the Fall 2021 Title I Committee meeting, and based on teacher input between the Fall 2021 Title I Committee meeting and October Parent Teacher Conferences. Parents, teachers, and students will have at least one opportunity to sign the school-parent compact during October Parent Teacher Conferences.

Reservation of Funds

The Kenai Peninsula Borough School District will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental and family engagement is spent. For 2021-2022 school year \$514.00 are allocated for parent & family engagement activities.

- Funds reserved under this section by the district agency shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the district's parent and family engagement policy, including not less than 1 of the following:
 - (i) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for local educational agencies 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.
 - (v) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the local educational agency determines are appropriate and consistent with such agency's parent and family engagement policy.

During the Fall 2021 Title I Committee Meeting, parents will discuss how to spend \$514 on family engagement, either through buying needed supplies and/or through funding an evening outreach event, such as family book night.

Coordination

Susan B. English School will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

Susan B. English School is open to coordinating with other relevant programs, organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional support and resources to families. Currently, Susan B. English School partners with Seldovia Village Tribe to provide open gym and open swim, partners with the city for Emergency Preparedness, and partners with Seldovia Community Preschool for Pre-K education.

Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

Susan B. English will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents and family members 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 proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Providing parents and family members 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 parental involvement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the following:
 - The challenging State academic standards.
 - The State and local academic assessments.
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - How to monitor a child's progress.
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

Parents and Family Members can access reports about student progress on PowerSchool, and in addition to the distribution of newsletters (K-6), many student assignments are posted to Google Classroom and Canvas. Suggestions for how to build further capacity of Parents and Family Members is welcome. Parents are also welcome to submit a volunteer application to support school programs. During Parent Teacher Conferences, school staff communicate with parents about how to help their child achieve academic success.

Building Capacity of School Staff

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

During inservice days, school staff meet formally, to discuss strategies for achieving school goals, related to student achievement in academics and social-emotional development. These strategies include parent & family engagement, such as communicating with parents after school when students are picked-up, communicating with parents by phone and email, attending Parent Advisory Council meetings, and distributing newsletters (K-6). Suggestions for how to build further capacity for school staff is welcome.

Susan B. English will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request.

Parents and family are encouraged to take advantage of their right to request reasonable support to be involved in the education of their children.

Adoption

This school parent and family member engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by_____.

This policy was adopted by **Susan B. English School** on **October 20, 2021** and will be in effect for the period of **2021-22 school year**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **November 1, 2021**.

Printed Name of Principal: _____

Signature of Principal: _____ *Date:* _____