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# Kenai Peninsula Borough School District DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As authorized under ESEA, as amended

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2023-2024

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## Overview

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** 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(a)(2) 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:

- The school district will conduct outreach to all parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A Programs to implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children. [§1116(a)(1)]
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESEA, as amended, and each include a component of the school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA, as amended. [§1116(b)] & [§1116(d)]
- 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 district plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, as amended, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state. [§1116(b)(4)]
- 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

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of the district plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA, as amended, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA, as amended.

Parents and family members provide input through each Title I School and through various stakeholder in put opportunities. Title I schools hold annual parent meetings and site council meetings to review and discuss the school development plans, Title I funding, and parent and family engagement. A parent/family member is on each school's planning team to ensure that parent voice is included in planning. This school level planning is shared with district staff and reviewed to ensure and plan parent and family engagement districtwide. The input received from various school sites helps to guide district planning because KPBSD covers such a large land area. This input also helps to guide district planning for the ESEA consolidated application as trends are seen through various school sites.

Parental input is also received through our various programs such as Title I-C and Title VI. Although Title VI is not a part of the ESEA consolidated application, the coordination and overlap with students helps to increase the input that we receive. Staff members utilize standard surveys, but also make individual phone calls to families to deepen the feedback for the district to use when planning. Programmatic opportunities are made widely available through newsletters and social media posts.

Other parent and family input is gleaned through surveys that lead district level planning such as in the area of curriculum. This input helps to not only guide curriculum choices, but also the type of professional development needed that drive the planning for Title II-A. This type of input also helps in understanding what type of supplemental resources are needed for English learners, Migrant students, and other populations.

The creation of the district's strategic plan allowed for quality input to be gathered from a variety of stakeholders. This plan drives district decisions and all of the district level planning.

### Technical Assistance

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools within the 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.

The district provides assistance to Title I schools in a variety of ways:

Training is provided as a 4-part webinar series for all Title I principals and appropriate staff. These virtual trainings take place during the first semester to provide real time assistance on documentation and requirements for each school. Topics include the annual meeting, parent and family engagement, etc.

The district Federal Programs Coordinator and Title I Specialist provide ongoing assistance to schools as needed. These individuals are available at any time throughout the year for schools. The Title I Specialist oversees and manages Title I Crate, a software that provides easy storage and upload capabilities for Title I documentation. The use of Title I Crate makes it easy for school staff to upload and keep track of their school specific documentation, and the Title I Specialist provides support to schools as needed.

Principals at Title I schools also receive support through monthly administrator meetings and weekly admin newsletters. This provides clear and consistent communication with all administrators. The Federal Programs Coordinator provides ongoing assistance in individual School Development Plans (SDP). The SDP is used as the Title I schoolwide plan and needs are looked at on an ongoing basis. School plans and budget plans are reviewed by the district and worked on together as needed.

#### Coordination

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** 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.

All of KPBSDs federal programs work towards parent and family engagement in each specific program. Through departmental team meetings, collaboration occurs to enhance and give ideas for parent and family engagement, creating strong strategies within each program. Additionally, the department works together to coordinate joint engagement activities and strategies to create a cohesive and stronger tie to parent and family engagement for families.

Title I schools work to have parent and family engagement that is specific to their school sites. The department has worked to create Family Resource Centers in Title I schools that is a consistent area in all schools, while still making the center specific to school needs. By ensuring a consistent presence in each school, the department promotes equitable access to vital resources and support systems. At the same time, tailoring each center to the specific needs of the individual school demonstrates a thoughtful and responsive approach, recognizing that communities may face unique challenges and require personalized solutions. Migrant Education holds parent and family engagement events regionally across the district, as well as enabling strong communication between the specialists and families to create bonds and easy access for families to advocate for their students. The Students in Transition program (education of homeless children and youth) consistently advocates for families and students to break down barriers to education. Students in Transition also creates strong bonds with community partners that help support and advocate for this student population. Alongside this program is the district's RISE program funded through Title IV. This program creates wrap around services for prioritized students such as unaccompanied youth and at-risk students. This program works in conjunction with others to help raise the achievement for students, while providing social emotional support and connections. Title VI also works to create strong bonds between schools, families, and the program. This program has seen an increase in parent engagement since COVID, and the benefits to stronger cultural connections have proved substantial. The district has many overlaps between Title VI, Migrant students, and EL students which creates a close working relationships between the specialists over these programs creating a more well-rounded approach to family engagement.

In addition to integrating parent and family engagement in all federal programs, KPBSD has a priority for family and community engagement in the district 5 year strategic plan. This recently adopted plan places high emphasis on engagement between schools, families, and the community. The district is working with schools, particularly non-Title I schools, to enhance and increase the engagement between families and schools.



## Annual Evaluation

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—

- (i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (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.

Evaluation is built into Title I site-based meetings. Parents are invited to attend and participate in site council meetings and other school based meetings to discuss the school's plan and family engagement. All schools continuously update their needs assessments in their School Development Plans that includes looking at parent and family engagement. Through these needs assessments, schools have the opportunity to evaluate engagement in conjunction with other school needs. The comprehensive look at the school allows for better evaluation and adjustments for future activities and engagement for families.

## Evidence-Based Strategies

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will use the findings of such evaluation listed above to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies.

- The term evidence-based means an activity, strategy, or intervention that—
  - (i) demonstrates a statistically significant effect on improving student outcomes or other relevant outcomes based on—
    - (I) strong evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented experimental study;
    - (II) moderate evidence from at least 1 well-designed and well-implemented quasi-experimental study; or
    - (III) promising evidence from at least 1 well designed and well-implemented correlational study with statistical controls for selection bias; or
  - (ii)
    - (I) demonstrates a rationale based on high quality research findings or positive evaluation that such activity, strategy, or intervention is likely to improve student outcomes or other relevant outcomes; and
    - (II) includes ongoing efforts to examine the effects of such activity, strategy, or intervention.

Each school's School Development Plan is reviewed and updated throughout the year. Needs are continually assessed so that appropriate adjustments can be made in real time. The needs assessments and School Development Plans are reviewed by the district periodically and assistance is provided as needed. The review of the plans and needs allows for future planning to occur for providing support and training for schools. When specifically looking at parent and family engagement needs, the district provides assistance to schools in need by helping to locate resources and ideas. District leadership also works to help schools combine efforts with various programs for schools to enhance parent and family engagement at schools in need.

#### Development, Revision, and Reviewing of Plan

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will involve parents in the activities of the Title I, Part A schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency 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.

KPBSDs district parent and family engagement plan is publicly available on the district's Federal Programs webpage. Comments can be made through surveys available on the site, and through individual school site meetings. Input is welcome throughout the year.



## 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 and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools, with priority given to high-need schools. (Only applicable to districts with an allocation of \$500,000 or more.)

- 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 agency 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.

KPBSD allocates 90% of the district's 1% set-aside is allocated directly to Title I schools. Title I schools discuss their portion of the Title I funds for parent and family engagement at their site meetings. Each school creates a plan and allows for feedback from their families. The district portion of the set-asides is used for districtwide engagement. KPBSD is a large district and works to create a cohesiveness with parents and stakeholders across our area.

## Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, build parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents and family members in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children
- The requirements of Title I, Part A

Each Title I school site has specific needs and plans are specific to those schools. Engagement and capacity building for each school is addressed at their school based meetings. The district provides resources through the KPBSD Title I website and the Family Resource Centers. The centers are specific to each school, but maintained by the district.

The district regularly communicates with families and stakeholders through the district website and social media. Topics surrounding state and local assessments, academic standards, curriculum, etc. are routinely communicated publicly in a way that is easy to understand and that can help families engage in their student's education.

## Building Capacity of School Staff

The **Kenai Peninsula Borough School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and 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.

Teachers and other school staff provide information to parents via a variety of methods such as PowerSchool, Canvas, School websites, school social media, newsletters, phone calls, etc. Staff are trained on the district provided resources so that communication can be seamless with families.

At the district level, outreach is also made available through the district website, social media, surveys, and media. The district works to highlight and share specific school information through social media to further promote and make communication more accessible.