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Tarrant City Schools (Parent, Family & Community Engagement Plan)

A. Describe how the local education agency will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the LEA Consolidated Plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans for any schools identified for Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) as described in 1111(d)(1) and (2).

Tarrant City School District will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d).

- Establish a district Parent and Family Advisory Committee that includes parent representatives from each school;
- Collaborate with the Parent and Family Advisory Committee to develop and evaluate the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy;
- Hold meetings with the Parent and Family Advisory Committee;
- Elicit ideas or suggestions for increasing parental and family engagement and include them in the district Parental and Family Engagement Policy; and
- Share parent suggestions with schools in order to increase parental and family engagement.
- Include parents in school-level building leadership teams to participate in the development and review of the Alabama continuous improvement plan (ACIP);
- Discuss the school's academic status at the annual Title I meeting; and
- Provide technical assistance to schools in the use of ACIP for continuous improvement plan development.
- Provide parents with web site information for accessing school ACIPs online, www.tarrant.k12.al.us
- B. Describe how the Local Education Agency will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency 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.

Tarrant City School District will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local



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educational agency 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.

- Schedule quarterly parent conference days in the district calendar parents are strongly requested to attend a parent/teacher/student conference to receive the grades from the last grading period;
- Provide technical assistance and support to Title I schools in meeting parent and family engagement requirements;
- Provide technical assistance to assist schools in developing parent and family leaders to promote participation in their child's school activities;
- Provide technical assistance in the organization and participation of parents and family members in school-level committees;
- Provide templates for schools for parent and family engagement requirement such as compacts, annual meeting Power Point, agenda, and Title I surveys;
- Provide technical assistance to schools in developing parent and family engagement set aside budgets;
- Provide assistance to schools in developing their parent and family engagement policies;
- Provide technical assistance in choosing and purchasing parent and family engagement materials;
- Post parent and family engagement newsletters on the district website;
- Conduct parent and family engagement meetings/collaborative sessions with administrators.
- C. Describe how the Local Education Agency will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

Tarrant City School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

- Form partnerships with OSR and Head Start preschool services providers;
- Provide a meeting place for parent and family education classes; and



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- Provide information regarding these programs in school newsletters.
- D. Describe how the local education agency 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 Title I, Part A, that includes identifying 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).

Tarrant City 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)
- Conduct with the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Committee, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities
- Incorporate the results of the evaluation into the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan and
- Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- E. Describe how the local education agency 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 Title I, Part A, that includes identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers. The district conducts and solicits input from parents using surveys, feedback forms, and conversations, meetings and various means of communication.

The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers

- Provide information routinely on professional development that is available;
- Train staff involved in registration of students to eliminate barriers during registration process; •



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Provide training for parents on how to use the materials and devices and platforms;

- Collaborate in school teams to plan for parent conference days;
- Provide information on working closely with parents in new teacher orientation; and
- Schedule parent conference days in the district calendar parents are strongly requested to attend a parent/teacher/student conference to receive information and training.
- F. Describe how the local education agency 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 Title I, Part A, that includes identifying strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Strategies to support successful school and family interactions:

Provide tutoring materials and training;

- Provide English language training for parents;
- Provide newsletters to give parents information and tips on helping their children improve academically;
- Provide parents with a list of online resources with home access for programs such as: Alabama Virtual Library, Accelerated Reader, iReady, IXL, BrainPoP, Destiny Library Access; and
- Provide parenting activities to actively encourage parents to be involved in their children's education
- G. Describe how the local education agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

The Tarrant City School District will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2) (D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section. The Federal Programs Advisory Committee reviews the Title I Program Evaluation and ACIP Reflections/Projections and student data from State Assessments as part of the information used to determine program revisions or new initiatives. The school level Parent Advisory committee uses the data from the Title I surveys and feedback from parents to make changes to the parent and family engagement plan as needed. During the school year, the school Building Leadership Team, in conjunction with the principal and Federal Programs



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administrator, use formative data assessments to determine revisions in Title I activities. Revisions to eGAP and amendments are made as needed.

H. Describe how the local education agency will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, 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.

The Tarrant City District will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, 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.

- Conduct with the district Parent and Family Engagement Committee, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in engagement activities
- Incorporate the results of the evaluation into the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan; and
- Conduct an annual review of the effectiveness of the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

In order to build capacity for parent and family engagement, the local education agency will ensure effective involvement of parents and will support a partnership among the school involved, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the local education agency shall:

I. Describe how it will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

The Tarrant City School District will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the



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challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

- Schedule quarterly parent conference days in the district calendar parents are strongly requested to attend a parent/teacher/student conference to receive the grades from the last grading period;
- Provide technical assistance and support to Title I schools in meeting parent and family engagement requirements;
- Provide technical assistance to assist schools in developing parent leaders to promote parent participation in their child's school activities;
- Provide technical assistance in the organization and participation of parents in schoollevel parent and family engagement committees;
- Provide templates for schools for parent and family engagement requirement such as compacts, annual meeting Power Point, agenda, and Title I surveys; Provide technical assistance to schools in developing parent and family engagement set aside budgets;
- Provide assistance to schools in developing their parent and family engagement policies:
- Provide technical assistance in choosing and purchasing parent and family engagement materials;

Provide technical assistance with parent/families that have trouble accessing their child's grades in PowerSchool and training to access student's information with the School Information System platforms.

- Post parent and family engagement newsletters on the district website; and
- Conduct parent and family engagement meetings/collaborative sessions with administrators.
- J. Describe how it 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 parental involvement.

The Tarrant City School District 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 parental involvement.

Tarrant City School District provides the following:

- Provide tutoring materials and training;
- Provide newsletters to give parents information and tips on helping their children improve academically;



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- Provide parents with a list of online resources with home access for programs such as: Alabama Virtual Library, Accelerated Reader, IXL, iReady, Destiny Library Access; and
- Provide parenting activities to actively encourage parents to be involved in their children's education.

Family Nights are held at the schools to provide training to parents to assist them with helping improve their children's achievement. Each meeting focuses on different content areas. During our Literacy Night meetings, parents are provided training in literacy skills, such as games to play with their children. Books are given to parents and students. Parents are trained in questions to ask such as who, what, when, and where as they read to their children to make sure they are making connections with the text or to learn predict what will happen next. Parents are encourage to read to their students and to allow the students to read to them. Older students are encouraged to read every night. Books are given out to parents and students during this training. Parents are given handouts and pamphlets with tips to develop literacy skills and how to help their students at home.

Parents are informed and trained on software programs used in the classrooms Parents are walked through how to use different features on the programs such as PowerSchool, Schoology, Chromebooks, etc. Information and policies regarding use of technology including copyright and piracy, the internet usage policy, and devices for assessments are reviewed and shared with parents often. Parents must sign and acknowledge that they have knowledge of these policies.

K. Describe how it will 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.

The Tarrant City School District will 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.

• Provide information routinely on professional development that is available;



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- Train staff involved in registration of students to eliminate barriers during registration process;
- Provide training for parents on how to use the materials included in the tutor boxes for elementary students;
- Collaborate in school teams to plan for parent conference days; Provide information on working closely with parents in new teacher orientation; and
- Schedule parent conference days in the district calendar parents are strongly requested to attend a parent/teacher/student conference to receive the grades from the last grading period.
- L. Describe how it will 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.

The Tarrant City School District it will 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.

- Form partnerships with preschool services agencies;
- Coordinate with Head Start and OSR so their students can attend the Spring Kindergarten orientation and summer Kindergarten camp;
- Collaborate with various agencies;
- Provide services for children with disabilities who are enrolled in the local Head Start program
- M. Describe how it will 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.

The Tarrant City School District will 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.



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- Send district and school information materials to parents in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
- Provide translation services, when possible, for communication and information for parents;
- Broadcast school information messages to parents, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand;
- Provide translators, when possible, at parent meetings, conferences, IEP/IELP meetings, and registration; and
- Send parent resource materials, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.
- Describe how the local education agency will ensure it provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request. The Tarrant City School District will ensure provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request. Each school has a parent resource center for parents and students to check out materials. The center is open during the school day as well as before and after parent meetings and houses a variety of resources in English and Spanish. These resources are located in the counselor's office. Parents have the opportunity to participate in Title I surveys each March to assist the school in determining needs. The resources assist parents in helping their child be more successful in mastering the state academic content standards. Materials include learning activities that parents and children can do together to strengthen the home-school connection. Schools host parent/student night to help parents learn different tips and strategies to use with their child at home. These meetings will help strengthen the home/school connection. Throughout the year, parenting sessions on various topics including, but not limited to, reading with my child, assisting my child with math, creating an academic home environment, how to interpret test data, what are standardized tests and how can I help, and working with my child's teacher are provided for parents. Parents also provide input in both formal and informal meetings throughout the school year to assist in determining the appropriate materials to be purchased for the parent resource room. The data from surveys and focus groups feedback aid school staff in determining topics for parenting sessions/workshops. Based on the survey findings and conversations with parents, each school will use their allotment of the 1% parental and family engagement set-aside to purchase a parent communication service, parent education materials, newsletters, parent training supplies, and printing of compacts and parent and family engagement policies.



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O. Describe how the local education agency may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

The Tarrant City School District may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training. Forming partnerships with preschool services agencies;

- Coordinate with Head Start and OSR so their students can attend the Spring Kindergarten orientation and summer Kindergarten camp;
- Collaborating with various agencies;
- Providing services for children with disabilities who are enrolled in the local Head Start program;

The Tarrant City School District may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training. Schools provide parents with resources to assist them in helping their child be more successful in mastering the state academic content standards. Materials include learning activities that parents and children can do together to strengthen the home-school connection. In addition, schools host parent/student night to help parents learn different tips and strategies to use with their child at home. Parents are invited to participate in a reading night that focuses on how reading instruction is being provided at school as well as some questions to ask while reading together at home. Parents are encouraged to read with their child each night to help build fluency and automaticity

P. Describe how the local education agency may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

The Tarrant City School District may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. When requested we provide the funds to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities. Transportation and child care funds can be requested as needed in order to enable parents to actively participate in meetings and training to schools.



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- Q. Describe how the local education agency may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. The Tarrant City School District may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. When requested we provide the funds to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities. Transportation and child care funds can be requested as needed in order to enable parents to actively participate in meetings and training to schools.
- R. Describe how the local education agency may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

Tarrant City Schools has a parent and family engagement policy and plan that covers the requirements of the Every Student Succeed Act of 2015. A district-wide Parent Advisory Committee revises and approves the plan annually. Each school also has a parent and family engagement policy included in the ACIP. Title I funding is provided to carry out parental and family engagement activities. Communication between the school and the home is supplemented and enhanced through Title I resources and the Parent/Student/School Compact.

District level support are given to schools as they develop and implement their school plans and parenting activities. Parents are active participants in the planning process at the school and district level. Compacts include all of the required components and are school specific. At the elementary level compacts are retained in the teacher's classroom and on the secondary level, the compact is kept in a designated file in the office for use by teachers in working with parents.

The Parents Right to Know information is published in the Parent/Student Handbook/Code of Conduct. A one page summary of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan is given to parents. Parents are asked to sign and return the form when they have received the overview. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is available at the district office, in the school media centers, and on the district web site www.tarrant.k12.al.us.

Each school holds an annual meeting where parents are informed about the requirements of Title I, State academic content and academic standards, state and local assessments,



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requirements of school-wide programs, and the school curriculum. At this meeting, a Power Point developed by the SDE is used to inform parents further about Title I.

S. Describe how the local education agency 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 parental involvement and participation.

The Tarrant City School District 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 parental involvement and participation.

Meetings are held in August, both in the evening and during the day, to accommodate the schedules of parents. Translators are hired for these meetings so that visual and auditory information can be provided in a parent's native language. At these meetings, parents have the opportunity to provide input, put forth concerns, and comment on current practices. Parents are informed about the requirements of Title I, State academic content and academic standards, state and local assessments, requirements of school-wide programs, and the school curriculum. At this meeting, a Power Point developed by the SDE is used to inform parents further about Title I. They are also informed of the Title I Parent Committee, which reviews the program at the end of each school year.

T. Describe how the local education agency may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

The Tarrant City School District may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement. The school district partners with parents to provide a positive relationship between the school and home. The school works with parents to develop skills that are critical for student success academically and socially. Parents are invited to volunteer at school events. Parents come to share their knowledge and skills and speak to classes during the year. Parents read to classes during our Read Across American Day and throughout the year.



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Parents volunteer as class room parents to assist teachers. Parents are involved in PTO, band booster, and all sports and academic teams.

U. Describe how the local education agency may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.

Tarrant City Schools has a parent and family engagement plan that covers the requirements of the Every Student Succeed Act of 2015. A district-wide Parent Advisory Committee revises and approves the plan annually. Each school also has a parent and family engagement policy included in the ACIP. Title I funding is provided to carry out parental and family engagement activities. Communication between the school and the home is supplemented and enhanced through Title I resources and the Parent/Student/School Compact. A Parent Liaison coordinates parenting activities for the district level and supports schools as they develop and implement their school plans and parenting activities. Parents are active participants in the planning process at the school and district level. Compacts include all of the required components and are school specific. At the elementary level compacts are retained in the teacher's classroom and on the secondary level, the compact is kept in a designated file in the office for use by teachers in working with parents.

V. Describe how the local education agency may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

The superintendent in collaboration with other stakeholders has partnered with a variety of community-based organizations and businesses to provide students with resources that otherwise would not be possible. For example, Helping Families Initiative, United Way, Mobile

Food Pantry, etc. These partnerships support the academic and social needs of students.

W. Describe how the local education agency 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), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

The Tarrant City School District, 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, parent and family members of homeless children, and parents and family members of immigrant children), including providing information and



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school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

- Notify parents in writing if the school their child attends goes into comprehensive or targeted support;
- Include parents in school-level building leadership teams to participate in the development and review of the Alabama continuous improvement plan (ACIP);
- Discuss the school's academic status at the annual Title I Parent meeting; and
- Provide technical assistance to schools in the use of ACIP for continuous improvement plan development.
- Provide parents with web site information for accessing school ACIPs online, www.tarrant.k12.al.us

Tarrant City School District provides information and school reports in a language parents understands by hiring and utilizing interpreters and translators. In addition, we communicate with parents using digital communication devices such as Master Word, Pocket Talks, and listening devices. During presentations, we corporate visual aids and gestures. To over come language barriers, signs around the schools are also written in other languages. Employees are encouraged to speak slowly and be respectful to all parents and family members.

This Tarrant City School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by establishing a LEA Parent Advisory Committee that includes all stakeholder representatives from each school. The meeting will be document through stakeholder advisory letters, sign-in sheets, agenda, and minutes. Through collaboration among the stakeholders ideas and/or suggestions will be elicited for increasing parent and family engagement.