

Missoula County Public Schools
INSTRUCTION 2159

Parent and Family Engagement

Missoula County Public Schools Board of Trustees recognizes the importance of engaging parents and families in the education of children, including in programs operated with Title I funding. The Superintendent shall undertake activities with respect to engagement for all aspects of its educational program designed to:

- Encourage parents and families to actively participate in the life of their children's schools;
- Ensure parents and families feel welcomed, valued, and connected to one another, school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class;
- Encourage families and school staff to engage in regular, two-way meaningful communication about student learning;
- Ensure continuous collaboration between families and school staff to support student learning and healthy development both at home and at school and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively;
- Empower families to be advocates for their own and other children to ensure that students are treated equitably and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success;
- Allow families and school staff to partner in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs; and
- Encourage families and school staff to collaborate with members of the community to connect students, families, and staff to expand learning opportunities, community services, and civic preparation.

To the extent feasible and appropriate, the District will attempt to coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs, including but not limited to Title I programs.

Title I

In addition, schools operating Schoolwide Title I programs shall undertake the following to engage parents and families:

- Host an annual meeting that accommodates parents' needs to inform parents about Title I requirements and about the right of parents to be involved in the Title I program.
- Involve parents and families in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Title I program and the school-parent compact.
- Provide parents with timely information about the Title I program/services.
- Provide parents with an explanation of the curriculum used at the school, the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Provide opportunities for regular meetings that allow the parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
- Develop, with the assistance of parents and families, and conduct an effective evaluation process regarding the Title I program.

School-Parent Compact

The District will distribute to parents a school-parent compact for each school operating a Schoolwide Title I program. The compact, jointly developed with parents, explains how parents, the entire school staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. It shall describe specific ways the school and families will partner to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. It will address the following legally required items, as well as other items suggested by parents and members of the Title I team.

- The school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
- The ways parents will be responsible for supporting their children's learning;
- The importance of ongoing communication between parents and teachers through, at a minimum, annual parent-teacher conferences; frequent reports on student progress; access to staff; opportunities for parents to volunteer and participate in their child's class; and opportunities to observe classroom activities

Interactions with Parents and Families

The District will engage parents and families in meaningful interactions with schools operating Title I Schoolwide programs. It will support flexible opportunities for a partnership among staff, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. To help reach these goals, schools will establish the following practices:

- Provide parents and families with assistance in understanding the State's academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children.
- Provide parents and families with materials and training to help them work with their children to improve their children's achievement.
- With the assistance of parents, educate staff members about the value of parent and family contributions, and in how to work with parents and families as equal partners.
- Coordinate and integrate the Title I parental and family engagement program with other programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent/family resource nights/activities, to encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- Distribute information related to school and parent and family programs, meetings, and other activities to parents and families in a format and language that the parents understand.

Accessibility

The District will provides opportunities for the participation of all parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students. Information and reports shall be provided in a format and language that parents understand.

Review

The District shall undertake activities to engage parents and families in the review and revision of this Parent and Family Engagement policy.

Cross Reference: Board Policy 2160

Legal Reference: Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, 20 U.S.C. §6301 *et seq.*, as implemented by 34 C.F.R. part 200, and as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, P.L. 114-95

§ 10.55.701, ARM

Board of Trustees

Policy History:

First Reading approved by Board on March 13, 2018 and posted for public comment

Adopted on: April 24, 2018