

# **SCHOOL, PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

Junction Hill is a schoolwide title program.

The policy for school parent and family engagement has been collaboratively developed with the participation of parents of participating children, including those of migrant and EL children. This policy is then distributed to parents and agreed upon by them, as per Section 1116 (b)(1).

Junction Hill conducts annual spring and fall meetings, during which parents are informed and invited to participate in the development of plans, offer suggestions, or propose changes. Surveys are also used to provide families with the opportunity to give input. Furthermore, a working meeting is held to which parents are invited to contribute to the development of plans and to consider changes suggested through surveys and family needs.

To ensure that the policy is easily comprehensible, parents are notified of it in a uniform and understandable format, as specified in Section 1116(b)(1). Additionally, the school parent and family engagement policy is provided to parents in a language that they can understand.

## **POLICY INVOLVEMENT**

At the start of each school year, the school holds an annual meeting that is convenient for all parents of participating children to attend. All parents are invited and encouraged to participate in this meeting, as per Section 1116(c)(1).

The purpose of this meeting is to inform parents about the school's participation in the Title I.A program, explain the requirements of Title I.A, and outline parents' rights to be involved. This is reflected in the meeting agenda, as per Section 1116(c)(1).

To ensure flexibility, the school offers a flexible number of meetings for parents to attend, as per Section 1116(c)(2).

The school also involves parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, specifically in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I.A program and the school parent and family engagement policy, as per Section 1116(c)(3).

Furthermore, the school provides timely information about the Title I.A programs to parents of participating children, as per Section 1116(c)(4)(A). Additionally, parents are provided with a detailed description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure progress, and the achievement levels of the MAP assessment.

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During Open House, teachers share information about the curriculum and assessments used at the school. At each of the two parent-teacher conferences, MAP achievement, academic assessment results, and student performance are shared and discussed with parents. The overall school MAP achievement is shared at the annual meeting.

The school provides opportunities, as appropriate, for parents to participate in decisions relating to the education of their children, as per Section 1116(c)(4)(C). Additionally, the school responds to parents' suggestions as soon as possible, as per Section 1116(c)(4)(C).

## **SHARED RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIGH STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

### **School-Parent Compact**

The School-Parent Compact is a document that outlines the shared responsibility of parents, the entire school staff, and students for improved student academic achievement. It also details the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards, as per Section 1116(d).

The school jointly develops the school-parent compact with the parents of Title I.A served children. The school-parent compact includes the following commitments:

Section 1116 (d)(1) of the law emphasizes the shared responsibility of parents and the school in supporting their children's learning. All parents are responsible for supporting their children's learning in several ways, as outlined in the school-parent compact. Parents can agree to be involved in their child's education by:

1. Monitoring attendance and ensuring their child comes to school ready to learn
2. Ensuring homework and other assignments are completed on time
3. Volunteering in the classroom or school
4. Participating in school-sponsored activities and events
5. Staying informed about their child's education and communicating regularly with their child's teacher

The school, on the other hand, is responsible for providing high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment, as outlined in the school-parent compact. This includes ensuring that all students have access to the resources and support they need to meet the state's academic standards.

Section 1116 (d)(2) emphasizes the importance of ongoing communication between teachers and parents. The school is responsible for conducting parent-teacher conferences at least annually, during which the school-parent compact should be discussed. The school should also issue frequent reports to parents on their child's progress, provide reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer, and allow observation of classroom activities. The school should ensure regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, in a language that family members can understand. This ongoing communication is essential for building a strong partnership between parents and the school to support student learning and success.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

To ensure effective parental involvement and support a partnership between the school, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement, Junction Hill School provides assistance to parents in understanding the Missouri Learning Standards, Missouri Assessment Program, local assessments, monitoring their child's progress, and working with educators to enhance their child's achievement. Additionally, the school holds a parent-teacher conference each semester to discuss what students are learning and the assessments that follow, and to facilitate collaboration between teachers and families to ensure academic success.

Junction Hill provides materials and training to assist parents in working with their children to improve achievement. As per Section 1116 (e)(2), teachers will supply families with necessary materials to supplement classroom learning. Additionally, teachers will offer strategies and guidance to parents on how to support their students. An activity night is also scheduled for parents and their children to participate in. This activity night will be a literacy night in the fall.

Junction Hill places great emphasis on fostering positive relationships between school personnel and parents. As such, we prioritize ongoing professional development to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders on the value and importance of parent contributions. We work collaboratively with parents to develop and coordinate parent programs such as the Parent Teacher Organization and Booster Club, and actively seek to build strong ties between parents and the school. Section 1116 (e)(3) serves as a guiding principle for our approach to parent-school partnerships.

In order to promote meaningful parental involvement and foster collaboration between the school, parents, and community to enhance students' academic performance, the school shall endeavor, wherever possible and suitable, to harmonize and incorporate parent involvement initiatives and events with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs. The school shall also conduct additional measures such as parent resource centers to inspire and assist parents to become more engaged in their children's education. This is pursuant to Section 1116 (e)(4).

Junction Hill provides multiple opportunities to encourage parents to participate more fully in their children's education. These include a volunteer program, a highly active Parents Teacher Organization, and planning meetings that parents are welcome to attend throughout the year. Additionally, Open House nights, parent-teacher conferences, and activity nights are held and announced to parents through letters, flyers, outreach phone calls, the website, and the school's Facebook page.

The school is responsible for ensuring that all communication pertaining to school and parent programs, meetings, and events is conveyed to the parents of participating children in a clear and understandable format and language. This is in accordance with Section 1116 (e)(5).

Furthermore, the school is obligated to offer reasonable assistance for parental involvement initiatives under this section, as requested by parents. This provision is specified in Section 1116 (e)(14).

### **Optional additional assurances**

To facilitate effective parental involvement and foster collaboration between the school, parents, and community to enhance students' academic achievement, the school may create suitable roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent

engagement initiatives. This provision is detailed in Section 1116 (e)(13), and such roles may include participation from organizations such as the PTO and Booster Club.

Parents and other stakeholders also have the opportunity to participate in monthly board meetings by following the process outlined in policies KC and BDDH-1.

## **ACCESSIBILITY**

In fulfilling the parent and family engagement mandates of the Title I program, the school shall make every effort to provide opportunities for the informed participation of all parents and family members, including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and those with migratory children. The school shall also provide information and school reports in a language and format that parents can comprehend, to the extent feasible.