

BURRILLVILLE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

POLICY RELATED TO COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Burrillville School Committee recognizes that the social, emotional, and academic growth of Burrillville students is best supported through the shared responsibility of parents, schools, and the community.

In support of these beliefs, the Burrillville School Committee agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

The Burrillville School Department will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents and families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with section 1118, the Burrillville School Department will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESSA.

The Burrillville School Department will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan developed under section 1112 of the ESSA.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Burrillville School Department and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the Burrillville School Department will submit any parent comments with the plan when the Burrillville School Department submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

The Burrillville School Department will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

The Burrillville School Department will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Rhode Island Parent Information Network (RIPIN). The district will make each parent group aware of the resources available through RIPIN.

The Burrillville School Department will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring

- A. that families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- B. that families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- C. 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;*
- D. the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESSA.*

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DEPARTMENT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DEPARTMENT-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Burrillville Public Schools will involve parents in the joint development of the Department-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESSA in the following ways, including but not limited to:
 - Parent participation in the district-wide committee to develop the policy
 - Availability of written copies of the policy by request for community review and feedback
 - Availability of the policy on the district web site for community feedback
 - Review of the policy each spring by a committee
2. The Burrillville Public Schools will involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA in the following ways, including but not limited to:
 - Annual Public School Committee Meeting
 - Annual Review by School Improvement Teams

3. The Burrillville Public Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance through:
 - A District Strategic Plan
 - School Report Nights
 - School Web Sites
 - Parent Resources available upon request
 - News Releases
 - Open Houses
 - Parent and Family Engagement Nights
 - Parent-Teacher Conferences
4. The Burrillville Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies and activities in Part A with parent and family engagement strategies and activities in other programs by involving representatives from community groups (such as ELL, Child Outreach, Early Intervention, RIPIN, and Head Start) in the planning and implementation of activities as appropriate.
5. The Burrillville School Department will conduct, in cooperation with parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy to improve the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identification of barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racially diverse background). The Burrillville School Department will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.
6. The Burrillville School Department will build its schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement in order to ensure ongoing and meaningful involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools, parents and community for the purpose of improving academic achievement by:

Providing assistance to parents, as appropriate, in understanding topics including, but not limited to:

- Rhode Island State Standards
- Curriculum
- State Testing
- District Testing
- Requirements of Title I, Part A
- Monitoring their child's progress
- Working with educators

- Strategies for supporting children at home

This assistance will be provided through a variety of media and in multiple settings throughout each school year.

- Educating teachers, administrators, and other staff around ways to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, as well as the value and utility of parental contributions, and how to build ties between parents and schools.
- Ensuring that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and activities is sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

PART III: DISSEMINATION

This policy will be distributed to parents of all participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30th of the 2018-2019 school year and/or when a child enters Title I for services.

First Reading: April 12, 2011

Second Reading: December 13, 2011

Policy Review: March 15, 2018

Policy Review Committee Members:

Julie Mayhew, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, and Professional Development; Title I Director; and Chairperson

Lisa Harpin, Title I Coordinator

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Tracy Hart, Title I Parent

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