



RHAWNURST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2020-2021
Revision Date: April 8, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Rhawnhurst Elementary School** 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(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The **Rhawnhurst Elementary School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- **Parents are invited to participate in the updating of the current Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact at the annual Spring Title I meeting. This year, the meeting was held on March 10, 2020.**
- **Additional SAC meetings will be held throughout the year for Parents/Guardians regarding the school budget, parental involvement events and reviews of school policy and documents (the School-Parent Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Policy).**

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Parents will be invited to the Annual Title I meeting in September 2020 to go over the requirements of Title I. During this meeting, the principal or their designee will share a presentation to parents that will include information about the requirements of Title I, parent rights, the school curriculum, teacher qualifications, the state content standards and assessments, and ways to monitor student progress and to work with educators as partners in their child's education. We will also distribute our Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact at this meeting.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) Information related to the school and parent

programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- Offer parent/guardian workshops on various topics.
- Invite families to participate in parent involvement activities such as Back To School Night, Career Day, Mystery Readers, Literacy Night, the Science Fair, Math & Science, and International Day.
- Encourage all children to utilize School Communication Folder & Student Planners
- A monthly calendar of all school events is sent home the first of each month.
- A monthly newsletter for each grade level is sent home.
- Follow-up memos and flyers are sent home.
- Reminder letters are sent home for all workshops.
- School Handbook is distributed to all students outlining policies and procedures in September 2020.
- School district initiatives and goals are distributed to parents through meetings and newsletters.
- An outdoor Marquee alerts parents and community members of upcoming school events.
- Back to School Night September 16, 2020.
- Report Card Conferences TBA.
- Bilingual counseling assistants (BCA) provides support with communications with parents.
- Parent Involvement opportunities such as Mystery Readers in October, November, April, and May.
- Annual Title I Meeting September 16, 2020.
- Math & Science Night (November 2020).
- International Day (January 2021).
- Literacy Night (March 2021).
- Bi-monthly parent workshops: “Envisions Math”, “Struggling Readers”, “Help for ELLs”, “Improving Writing Writing”, and “PSSA Preparation”.
- All communication from the school is sent to parents in easy to read language and in the languages spoken at home as requested. The Office of Family and Community Engagement is able to support the school in translating the documents and telephone communication with non-English speaking parents upon request.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state’s high standards.

- **Invite parents to plan, revise, and improve the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Parent Compact at the annual Spring Title I Meeting. This year a parent input meeting was held on March 10, 2020.**
- **Additionally, during Report Card Conferences, parents can meet with staff to discuss their child’s achievement and make a plan to help their achievements.**

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will take the following actions to 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 parent and family engagement is spent by:

Parents are invited to attend the Title I Winter Parent Meeting for review of the Title I budget. Suggestions/input from parents will be gathered for how funds should be spent during the upcoming school year, including the 1% Title I parent set aside.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement 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 by:

- **Parents will be invited to attend the annual Middle School Application Meeting: October 2020.**
- **The school will coordinate with the Office of Family and Community Engagement to provide workshops for parents and other resources to help parents support their student's learning at home.**

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

1. Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
2. Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
3. Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - a) The challenging State's academic standards
 - b) The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - c) The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - d) How to monitor their child's progress
 - e) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

Invite parents to attend the Annual Title I meeting in September 2020 where Topics a) through e) will be covered in a powerpoint presentation and go over how Title I works, the Title I budget, as well as academic standards and assessments. This meeting will also include information about the requirements of Title I and parent rights, the school curriculum, ways to monitor student progress and to work with educators as partners in their child's education.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will provide training to 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 by:

- **Parents are encouraged to complete parent surveys to inform staff on ways to improve parent engagement and involvement.**
- **Parents can also send in a note or email requesting various supports.**
- **We will hold a staff professional development day for teachers and administrators to review appropriate and effective parental communication expectations at a district PD day in the Fall. Results of parent surveys will also be incorporated into this PD to inform decision making about the development of parent engagement activities and protocols.**

Rhawnhurst Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY DISCRETIONARY COMPONENTS

- **Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;**
- **Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;**
- **Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;**
- **Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;**
- **In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;**
- **Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;**
- **Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;**
- **Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and**
- **Providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request, and opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to**

participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and responding to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- **A School-Parent Compact has been developed which outlines how parents, the entire school staff and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.**

_____ **Joy Kingwood** _____ **9/17/20** _____

Principal Signature

Date