



At EmerEAU, we illuminate to embark; we investigate to discover; we innovate to transform; we cultivate to sustain; we celebrate to thrive - realizing the potential within us - we graduate. E=i3c 2g!

*Illuminate Investigate Innovate Cultivate Celebrate Graduate*

## **Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Plan**

The Board of Directors acknowledges the significance of family engagement in a child's academic success and is certain that the education of children is an ongoing collaborative partnership between the home and the school. Parents/Guardians and other family members are their children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents/guardians and family members in the educational process is most important in nurturing and increasing educational achievement. School officials shall strive to support parents/guardians and provide parents/guardians and family members with meaningful opportunities to become involved in the programs offered by our Title I school. The Board encourages parents/guardians and family members to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities in order to increase the effectiveness of the school's Title I program in helping students meet state and local achievement standards.

### **A. DEFINITION OF PARENT/ GUARDIAN AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

For the purposes of this policy, the term "parent/guardian and family engagement" means the participation of parents/guardians and other family members in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

1. that parents/guardians and family members play a vital role in supporting their child's learning;
2. that parents/guardians and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
3. that parents/guardians are full partners in their child's education and parents/guardians and family members are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
4. that the school uses events to support parent/guardian and family engagement in the Title I programs.

### **B. PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF TITLE I PROGRAM**

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet the school's challenging academic standards. The Title I program delivers instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program.

### **C. ANNUAL TITLE 1 MEETING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION**

Each year, school officials must invite parents/guardians of students participating in Title I programs to a meeting to explain parent/ guardian rights, discuss the programs and activities to be provided with Title I funds, and solicit input on the Title I program and this policy. In addition, school officials must provide parents/guardians and family members a meaningful opportunity annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I programs and the parent/ guardian and family engagement policies and plans. Information collected from these proceedings will be used to revise Title I programs and parent/guardian and family engagement plans.

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

- August 22, 2024- Curriculum Night: Executive Director will distribute a presentation about Title 1 and school-wide participation; it will be publicized on the school website, weekly Swift K12 administrative announcement, and teacher's newsletters and electronic communication

## **PARENT/ GUARDIAN AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS**

The board believes that the involvement of Title I parents/guardians and family members in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The Title I staff and all school personnel shall strive to conduct outreach to parents/guardians and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year.

School leadership shall ensure that this parent/ guardian and family engagement policy and plan is developed with, agreed upon, and annually distributed to parents/guardians and family members of participating students.

In addition, school officials and Title I school personnel shall do the following:

1. Involve parents/guardians and family members in the joint development of the Title I program and school support and improvement plan and the process of school review and improvement by including parents/guardians on the school advisory committee and any committees that review the Title I program;
  - SIT parent/ guardian representatives elected from K-2, 3-5, middle grades:
    - Yermy Lara Balcazar (4th)
    - Patsy Moffat (4-8)
    - Courtney Dorsett (K, 2, 6)
    - Donique Smith (1st grade)
    - Jennifer Leggett (7th)
    - Brooke McMichael (K, 5, 8)
2. Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity in planning and implementing effective parent/ guardian and family engagement activities that are designed to improve student academic achievement and school performance may include but is not limited to:
  - Parent/Guardian Conferences– scheduled throughout the year in conjunction with the academic calendar
  - Newsletters- classroom teacher to families
  - ClassDojo- classroom teacher/family continuous connection
  - Remind 101- Middle school classroom teacher/family continuous connection
  - Swift k12- administrative announcements (weekly)
  - Parent/Guardian Portal PowerSchool (K-8); Foodease- to include training
  - Concerts (K-8)
  - Theater performances (5-8)
  - Clubs- Academic and special interest
  - College and Career Fair- student-led with assistance from guidance department/ community involvement
3. Coordinate and integrate parent/ guardian and family engagement strategies in the Title I program to the extent feasible and appropriate with parent/ guardian engagement strategies established in other federal, state, and local laws and programs;
  - Family Nights
  - Exploration Expo- to celebrate the diversity of all aspects and interests of our students- to include but not be limited to ethnic, strengths and hobbies
  - Obtain recommendations from staff
  - Contact recommended parents/guardians to extend an invitation
  - Ensure student population is well-represented (race, grade levels, gender, SES, EC... )

4. With the meaningful involvement of parents/guardians, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school parent/guardian and family engagement policy and program in improving the academic quality of the school and assisting students to meet the school's academic standards. This evaluation shall identify the following:
  - a. barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents/guardians who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency have limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
    - Financial constraints to make added trips to school
    - Child care constraints in evenings
    - Time constraints
    - Non-traditional family dynamics - single parent/guardian homes, grandparent/guardian homes
    - Language barriers
    - Understanding of classroom/school dynamics; ex: expected role of parent/guardian involvement within the classroom
  - b. the needs of parents/guardians and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers, and;
    - Understanding rigor
    - Behavior expectations
    - Open classroom concept
    - Grading
    - Use of parent/guardian portal
    - Consistent/regular two-way communication: home-to-school and school-to-home
    - Relationship building opportunities between families and teachers
    - Understanding of NCSCOS and learning expectations to reach success
  - c. strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
    - Linking with families to learn about their needs and being sympathetic toward their needs through school involvement events such as Exploration Expo, concerts, and theater productions.
    - Suggestion Box in the front of school and at events
    - Digital survey
    - Parent/Guardian input of needs/concerns through PTO and SIT representatives

The school will use these findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent/guardian involvement, and revise, if necessary, the parent/guardian and family engagement policy.

#### ADOPTION

The Emereau: Bladen Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures have been developed/revised jointly with and agreed upon with parents/guardians as evidenced by meeting minutes.

The Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Policy/Procedures were developed/revised by Emereau: Bladen School Improvement Team on 6/27/2024 and will be in effect for the period of the 2024-2025 school year. The school will distribute these Parent/Guardian and Family Engagement Policies/Procedures to all parents/guardians and make it available to the community on or before 08/08/2024.

  
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