

Bridesburg School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2020-2021
Revision Date: 4/30/2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Bridesburg 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 **Bridesburg 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

Bridesburg 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.

- A required Title I Meeting will be held virtually during Back to School Night at which an invitation is extended to all parents and guardians to become a member of the Home and School Association and the SAC. All parents and guardians are invited to participate in discussion of the budget and school plan during the Annual Title I Winter meeting, held on 1/27/20. A parent input meeting was held on April 30th, 2020, to solicit parent input into the development of the Parent and Family Engagement policy and School Parent compact.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Bridesburg 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.

- Annual Meeting: Held during the annual fall Back to School Night. During this meeting, the Administration will make a presentation to parents on the requirements of Title I part A, parent rights under the law, the state's academic content standards and assessments, ways to work with educators as equal partners and how to monitor their child's progress. Parents/guardians will also receive the updated Family and Parent Engagement policy and the School Compact and information about the school's curriculum and academic programs.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Bridesburg 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.

- 1) All communication listed below will be sent in parent-friendly language. Translations into languages spoken at home are available in partnership with the school district's multilingual office.
- 2) Automated Phone Messages will regularly be sent to update Parents and Students on any upcoming or necessary information.
- 3) Monthly Calendars will go home with Students to provide important dates and events throughout the month.

- 4) Conferences will be held with Parents and Teachers to discuss students educational goals as well as Parental concerns.
- 5) Monthly Newsletter will be distributed to parents as a method of communication
- 6) Emails to parents will be provided as an additional method of communication.
- 7) Parent meetings and conferences are held at various times throughout the day in order to create as much opportunity as possible for parent involvement.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Bridesburg 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.

- Parents were invited to provide feedback to update the current parent and family engagement policy and school parent compact during a virtual meeting on April 30th, 2020. All participants were invited to the Google meeting to give them an opportunity to provide feedback. Both documents will be distributed during the annual Back To School Night scheduled for the fall of 2020.
- Parents are invited to participate in monthly School Advisory Council meetings and provide input on the continual updating of both documents.
- Additional copies are available on the parent resource table for the entire school year. There will also be an opportunity for parents to participate during a virtual Google Meeting.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Bridesburg 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:

- During the annual Title I Winter and Spring parent meetings, budget information is presented to parents and parents are invited to give input into how the 1 % Title I Parent involvement funds should be spent. Also, parents complete a survey to capture input on the spending of these funds. Suggestions were made to utilize funds for more parental involvement opportunities.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Bridesburg 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:

- Bridesburg staff will be available to collaborate and coordinate with various organizations and parent groups to provide presentations and workshops about Title 1, Pa standards, and school district expectations in clear, simple language and, to the extent practical, in targeted languages.
- Disseminate materials from the Office of Teaching and Learning and other offices, including, to the extent feasible, translations to parents and caregivers that will be useful references at home.
- Coordinate with area pre-k programs to connect with parents of pre-k students and advertise our Kindergarten open houses in the Spring

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Bridesburg 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 Academic Standards for each grade level and what these 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
- Annual Meeting: During the annual Title I meeting, administration will make a presentation to parents on the requirements of Title I part A, parent rights under the law, the state's academic content standards and assessments, ways to work with educators as equal partners and how to monitor their child's progress.
 - Parent Workshops will be offered throughout the 2020-2021 school year. Surveys will be distributed to parents to solicit feedback about topics that are of use to parents in supporting their child's learning.
 - During report card conferences, held three times during the year, parents are able to get information about the school curriculum and how to support student learning at home.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Bridesburg 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:

- Professional Development will be held during a district PD day in the fall and winter where staff will be trained by administration in expected parent communication standards and methods of effective parent engagement. During this PD, results from the school level parent survey will also be shared with staff, with the assistance of parents.

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

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Surveying parents: Ask parents what information and workshops they would find most helpful. " Consult with parents and others in the community: Ask about their preferences and the best ways to translate or modify messages to all parents.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents to support school-home connections
- Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education.

James Serpiello
Principal Signature

September 17, 2020
Date 9/21/20