



Title I

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Vision:
100% Student Success

Mission:
Educate and prepare each student for college, career, and life.

A Partnership for Success

Pinellas County Schools (PCS) is committed to engaging families and the community as equal partners to assist with providing a world-class education with excellence and equity that empowers each student to reach their highest potential. Each year PCS district personnel reviews its plan for supporting Title I schools and families in building strong partnerships that help students succeed in school.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school policies, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act) ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to engage parents and family members in their child(ren)'s education.



PCS Title I Goal

If the PCS Title I Department provides differentiated support to Title I schools and families, then a minimum of 10% of our schools will improve at least one letter grade as measured by 2022 FSA data.

What is Family Engagement?

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

- That families play an integral role in assisting their child(ren)'s learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child(ren)'s education.
- That parents are full partners in their child (ren)'s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education.
- The carrying out of other activities, as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Jointly Developed

The 2021-2022 District-level Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP), has been jointly developed and agreed upon by stakeholders (i.e. staff, families, community members, etc.) in compliance with Title I federal funding regulations [Section 1112(C) and Section 1116]. The plan describes how the district is conducting outreach to all parents and family members to implement programs, activities, and procedures that promote parent and family engagement. Additionally, the Title I District-level PFEP is made available to the parents and family members of participating children in Title I Schools.

The Pinellas County School District Title I Parent and Family Coordinator (PFC) will meet with the Parent Advisory Council (PAC), made up of parent representatives from Title I schools and District personnel two times during each school year, fall 2021 and spring 2022. During the Fall meeting the PAC will receive a copy of the PCS Title I PFEP and the PFC will lead a discussion on each section of the plan. Also, Title I School administrators and PAC members will be asked to solicit information and input from parents regarding the PFEP.

PAC will meet with the PFC to review and revise the Title I Annual Parent Survey to gather information for the following:

- best day and time of day for parent engagement activities;
- areas of need to build parent capacity;
- identify barriers that prevent parents from being involved at individual schools and countywide parent activities;
- determine if we are meeting the needs of our with parents with limited English proficiency and disabled parents.



Building Capacity

PCS will build partnerships between its Title I schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, we will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives.

For parents:

PCS will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. Each year schools will convene an annual meeting to describe the school's participation in the Title I, Part A program and the rights of families to be involved. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to curriculum, the State's challenging academic standards, local and state assessments including alternative assessments, achievement levels, how to monitor progress, and parents right to know will also be provided. The district and schools also offer assistance to parents in understanding the use of its online student information portal and other digital resources including education about the harms of copyright piracy. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on school and district websites and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

In addition, the district and school websites contain links to resources, materials, and training to help parents and families work with their child(ren) to improve achievement.

PCS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. Throughout the year, schools will host Ready, Set... Kindergarten activities, middle and high school transition nights, school showcase events, and college and career fairs so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, trainings, and activities are available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. Information posted on school and district websites will be translated to the extent practicable and upon request. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

For school staff:

PCS will provide training to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will focus on educating school personnel, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of the contributions of families and how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners.

How PCS Supports Family Engagement in Title I Schools

PCS will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities by:

- Providing technical assistance to Title I administrators at staff meetings. Each Title I principal will receive the Title I Handbook with procedures, policies, and specific ESSA requirements. Additionally, new Title I principals will receive additional training as well as ongoing support as needed.
- District Title I staff will share information and parent and family engagement best practices with the members of the PAC; who will in turn share information with their various school leadership teams and parent groups.
- The PFC will review and monitor the each school's PFEP, Title I Parent Station, Parents Right to Know, the School-Parent-Student Compact, the Title I Parent Empowerment Toolkit, and information and resources available for families.
- The PFC will provide Title I Family and Community Liaison Workshops to support a positive school environment for parents and student, to create a strong community partnership that will positively impact student academic progress.





Coordinated Support

PCS will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies from Title I, Part A of with other federal programs (including but not limited to Head Start, Parents as Teachers, Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten, Title I Part D, Title III, and Title IV, Part A) [Sections 1116 (a)(2)(D) and 1116(e)(4)].

Voluntary Pre-kindergarten Coordination:

The PFC will work with Title I schools to coordinate transition activities for incoming children entering public school kindergarten. These activities will include parent meetings to explain the expectations for incoming kindergarten students, classroom tours and ways parents can help their students academically.

Title III Coordination:

In the Fall 2021, the PFC will disseminate contact information for the district's ESOL Department at the Title I Technical Assistance meeting to inform the Title I contacts of the availability of translators to assist, facilitate, translate parent meetings/workshops/ and materials when needed.

Title IV Coordination:

Fifth grade students and parents will be offered comprehensive college planning and guidance to establish academic leadership and community service goals.

Title I, Part A coordinates with other district federal programs and departments through the Title I Consultation and Cross-Coordination meeting throughout the year.

Encouraging Family Engagement

Title I schools ensure families feel welcomed, appreciated, and included. Families are able to attend decision-making meetings, workshops or trainings, and other family events by:

- sending out timely notices of training/meeting dates and times;
- offering flexible dates and times and have materials available for parents that did not attend an event;
- making accommodations for physical challenges;
- providing free childcare at Title I meetings and events;
- providing transportation to attend school events;
- conducting Title I meetings in nearby community centers and neighborhoods;
- providing translation services.

Annual Summary Report

Each year, PCS will conduct an annual evaluation of the effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by families and use the findings to design strategies to support successful school and family interactions and revise engagement policies.

Annually, a survey will be provided for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. The Annual Title I Parent Survey will be available online at the district's website and Title I schools' websites, paper versions will also be distributed to the schools for dissemination to the parents that request a paper survey.

For more information please visit our website: www.pcsb.org/titleone

