

South Side Lower Elementary Picayune School District

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy South Side Lower Elementary 2025-2026 07/25/25 Date Revised

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, South Side Lower Elementary 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, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities.

South Side Lower Elementary understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families 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

South Side Lower Elementary agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

South Side Lower Elementary 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 parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

South Side Lower Elementary will host a beginning of the year Title 1 meeting on September 13, 5-6 PM. We will meet in our library, and the principal of the school will walk through

a powerpoint presentation of the school's role as a Title 1 entity and the parents/guardians' rights and responsibilities. South Side Lower Elementary hosted a meet the teacher where each family was presented with a compact between the parent, student, and school.

B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS

South Side Lower Elementary will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening (for which the school may use Title I funds to provide transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement).

C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED

South Side Lower Elementary will take the following actions to 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.

In our planning phase, we will determine what type of parent-teacher team will most benefit our school. We will publicize parent leadership opportunities. We will invite and designate parent and teacher members to represent the school community. We will also take the time to reflect upon and analyze our current family engagement practices. The school will develop methods of communication that are effective between teacher and parents. The school will strive to involve underrepresented families by constantly considering language barriers and other obstacles such as child care and work schedules. The school will emphasize parent involvement through dedicating a portion of the budget to parental involvement as well as reaching across socioeconomic demographic barriers. The school garners great information from the parents in a yearly survey, and the school administration is also planning several family engagement nights throughout the year (e.g. reading night at the school). The school will host a meeting per semester with designated teachers and parents to discuss the manner in which we can improve our community relations and parental involvement in the school.

The policy that is adopted by the school will be made available in both a hardcopy form and a digital format that will be linked to our school website.

D. COMMUNICATION

South Side Lower Elementary will provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a) a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- b) forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- c) achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and

- d) if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable possible.

Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, will be 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

The methods of communication that the school uses to reach parents and guardians is varied in approach. The school has classroom communication sent home daily by the teachers. The folders that the students have contain behavioral notes, academic awareness information, and scheduled events. The teachers also communicate with the parents through various online formats. The office also sends notes out through these folders as well. The notes are translated into the appropriate language for each of our students that has such a barrier. The school maintains both a website and a facebook page that allows the parents to follow any announcements from the office or school. The school also uses the traditional methods of communication for a school in that we use telephonic communication and email to reach parents for specific information concerning their behavior, academics, progress, or regression. The families will also receive a progress report each nine weeks and a final report card that contains grades, absences, tardies, behavioral notes, and other information that the teacher or office deem necessary. The dates of these reports have been given to each parent or guardian. They are posted in the lobby of our building, and they are also announced on a sign in front of our building. Each teacher also informs the families when these reports are expected to go home. The school district has also implemented a communication network that is used by the district, the schools, and teachers that is called Parent Square. Parent Square allows us to keep track of the communication that we are making with the parents and families of our school. The school makes announcements in a variety of ways in order to reach each family.

E. DISSENSION PROCESS

South Side Lower Elementary will submit any comments/concerns to the Picayune School District Superintendent if the schoolwide plan and/or parent and family engagement policy is not satisfactory to parents.

F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

South Side Lower Elementary will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

The school will discuss in the teacher/parent meetings the school-parent compact. The meeting will allow for input from both teachers and parents concerning the expectations put forth and the requirements of the school-parent compact. The teacher and

administrator will ask if points of clarification are necessary when each parent is reading and signing the compact. The teacher and/or administrator will make notes of the possible confusing elements so the compact can be presented in a clearer fashion.

G. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

South Side Lower Elementary will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- 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 parental involvement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the 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.
- Coordinate and integrate parental involvement 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 to fully participate in the education of their children.

The school will disseminate information to families that is meant to help parents/guardians understand how to help students reach their full potential. There will be information linked to both the district website and the school website to help families understand the necessary information to engage in the educational process and the most effective tools to use in order to assist the student with the educational needs that are present.

H. ACCESSIBILITY

South Side Lower Elementary in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports

required under section 1111 in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

- School hosted a Parent/Teacher Organization recruitment meeting
- The school will host picnic Fridays with families of students
- The school will host fun nights in conjunction with educational goals
- The school will periodically host activities in the day that parents/guardians can attend
- The school district will celebrate a parent of the year
- The school will offer resources for the parents to use at home for educational purposes