Akiak School
SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

As authorized under ESEA, as amended

[School Year 2023-2024]
[Revision Date: 10/23/2023]
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Overview

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Yupiit School District 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)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. The policy establishes the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities.

The Yupiit School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in Section 1116 of the ESEA, as amended:

- 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)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended. [§1116(c)(3)]
- Update the school parent and family member policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents and family members of participating children, and make the parental involvement policy available to the local community. [§1116(b)(1)]
- In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have 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 of the ESEA, as amended, in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. [§1116(e)(4)]
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the ESEA, as amended, 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 district. [§1116(c)(5)]
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I, Part A schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
  - Parent Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—
    - that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
    - that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
    - that 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; and
    - the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116. [§8101(39)]
Required Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

Joint Development

Akiak School will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A 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.

(Describe/List how parents and family members will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement policy and how parents will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parental involvement programs.

Parents and family members will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement policy by providing feedback during community events, parent/teacher conferences, specifically scheduled meetings to develop or update the engagement policy. Parents will be given the opportunity to facilitate these meetings with the guidance of site administration. Additional parent and family feedback will be received through email/SMS replies to surveys or specific questions and through social media engagement.

Form # 05-17-057
Alaska Department of Education & Early Development
Annual Title I, Part A Meeting

**Akiak 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, Part A program, the nature of the Title I, Part A program, the parents’ requirements, the school parent and family policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Each site hosted an annual meeting. Parents, students, staff, and community members attended the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation outlined the Title I-A requirements, including information about supporting programs, family engagement opportunities, recruiting parents/guardians to participate on advisory boards, and describing funding from state and federal grants.

**Communications**

**Akiak School** will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about Title I, Part A programs.
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
- If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- Information related to the school and parent and family member 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.

(Describe/List how the parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents and family members and how the school is going to communicate with parents and family members including information about how the school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.)

The parent and family engagement policy will be distributed to parents by being sent home with students, being mailed to households, being distributed during community meetings, distributed during parent-teacher conferences, posted to social media, or emailed. The school will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities via daily, morning announcements, letters sent home to parents, school-wide SMS, phone calls, emails, during family engagement nights (i.e., Literacy Night, Halloween Carnival, etc.), and social media posts. During meetings, local staff members will present the information using English and/or Yup'ik. Communications that include text will be written in a manner that is understandable to all audiences.
School-Parent Compact

**Akiak 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.

(Describe/List the process the school will follow to jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact.)

- Parents are invited to the school to participate in development of the school-parent compact during scheduled meetings. During this meeting, an agenda is established and distributed to each participant. Based on participant feedback, notes will be taken and eventually organized in a way that will comprise the compact. Upon completion, the parents will participate in another meeting to review and, if necessary, revise the compact to create a final draft that is distributed to all parents and guardians. Parents and community members will be motivated by offering “prizes” to students of parents who participate.

Reservation of Funds

The **Yupiit School District** will 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 parental and family engagement is spent. *(Only applicable to districts with an allocation of $500,000 or more.)*

- Funds reserved under this section by the district agency shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the district’s parent and family engagement policy, including not less than 1 of the following:
  
  (i) Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for local educational agency and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.

  (ii) Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.

  (iii) Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.

  (iv) Collaborating, or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.

  (v) Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the local educational agency determines are appropriate and consistent with such agency’s parent and family engagement policy.
Each site hosted an annual meeting. Parents, students, staff, and community members attended the meeting. A PowerPoint presentation outlined the Title I-A requirements, including information about supporting programs, family engagement opportunities, recruiting parents/guardians to participate on advisory boards, and describing funding from state and federal grants. 116 responses were provided for a survey distributed at the meeting.

Coordination

**Akiak School** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

(Describe/List how the school will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant programs, organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families.)

Akiak School works with a number of organizations to coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies. Kokarmuit Corporation, our village store, provide food and supplies during community events. The City of Akiak and the Akiak Native Community provides logistical and financial support for school community events and activities. The Akiak Native Community offers suicide prevention activities and information for our school community. Rural Cap coordinates with village elders. These elders come into the school to work with our students, sharing personal stories, encouraging cultural values, and provide in-class support to our teachers.

Building Capacity of Parents and Family Members

**Akiak School** will build the parents’ capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents and family members 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 proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Providing parents and family members materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the following:
  - The challenging State academic standards.
  - The State and local academic assessments.
  - The requirements of Title I, Part A.
  - How to monitor a child’s progress.
  - How work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
(Describe/List activities, such as workshops, conferences, classes, online resources, and any equipment or other materials that may be necessary to support parents and family members in helping their student’s academic success.)

Parents have access to their student’s PowerSchool information. This information provides data related to absences and grades. All students are provided with a piece of technology (MacBook Air or iPad). These devices contribute to students being able to extend their learning beyond the school. Internet is necessary to support student academics. Unfortunately, for some of our community, this is not possible. Offering dinner followed by activities such as literacy, math, or science night. Hallway and school displays providing information about what students are doing and what is happening in the school. Inviting educational organizations such as KUC to come talk to both adults and students about the available opportunities.

Building Capacity of School Staff

Akiak School will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

(Describe/List activities such as workshops, conferences, trainings, webinars, and online resources that will be used with school staff to build their capacity to work with parents as equal partners.)

How to reach out to parents:

During the all-staff district in-service, staff were provided guidance on best practices with working and communicating with parents/guardians. Administrator support through evaluations, staff meetings, and one-to-one conversations contribute to staff capacity to work with parents as equal partners in their child’s education. When necessary, staff are provided guidance when posting to social media, including postings to the school’s Facebook page. The school maintains policies and procedures related to school activities that encourage community participation. Staff are made aware of communication tools such as Remind and PowerSchool Messenger to communicate what’s happening at the school. Parent interest surveys asking parents what they would be willing to get involved in. Providing parents the opportunity to learn how to use some of the communication tools currently available (i.e., PowerSchool Messenger, Remind, etc.).

Akiak School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request.
(Describe/List actions the school will take to provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities.)

Parents are invited to participate in local and regional school board meetings. Through these meetings, parents have the opportunity to share their opinions and ideas for a variety of items related to the school community. Akiak School maintains an open-door policy. All parents are aware that they can stop it at any point to meet with teachers and school leadership. The school will invite grandparents as cultural expert volunteers. Parents will be encouraged by inviting them to have lunch with their children. Establishing a parent teacher organization that fosters collaboration and communication.

Adoption

This school parent and family member engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced during community development meetings.

This policy was adopted by the Akiak School on October 24, 23 and will be in effect for the period of 2022-2023. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 27, 23.

Printed Name of Principal: James Boldosser

Signature of Principal: ___________________________ Date: 10-24-23