



The Discovery School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2024-2025

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, The Discovery 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 Discovery School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, 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 school improvement 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 families and the school, distribute it to the families 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 families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families 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 families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family 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 families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) 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; and
- (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:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Discovery School will take the following actions to involve families 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 families, 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.

Parent involvement for TDS is based on the belief that families have a major influence on their children's achievement in school. TDS is working to include parents in all aspects of their child's educational decisions as well as providing opportunities for participation of all parents. We believe that purposeful and intentional communication among all stakeholders cultivates a culture for better student results. TDS is seeking national Level 1 certification in High Reliability Schools. This certification will enhance the safe, supportive and collaborative culture present at TDS. Through this process TDS has moved to create focused opportunities for collaboration with families and guardians, and community members across the district. TDS offers multiple opportunities for parents to learn to help their children meet state academic standards at high levels. TDS offers two workshops for parents to help their children be successful in school. Workshops are offered based on parental input through surveys and committee meetings. TDS has an open-communication policy, parents are welcome to all meetings, and information is disseminated concerning making decisions about their child's education. Annual surveys are sent out to all parents to obtain information about Title I programming successes, HRS parent surveys to gain knowledge on needed improvements and ideas for helping students succeed in school.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

The Discovery School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

TDS will hold the Annual Title I meeting to inform parents and families of the requirements of Title I schools and inform parents of their right to be involved. Parents are provided copies of information about Title I as well as have opportunities to ask questions about being a Title I school and requirements. The annual meeting will include an invitation for all parents. Translations are provided as requested. Parents will receive the Title I pamphlet explaining Title I and services provided.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Discovery School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including

alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

The parent and family engagement policy is distributed to families each year at the beginning of the school year and discussed during the Title 1 parent meeting. School communication will include frequent two-way communication with families about student learning. Communication will be facilitated through the weekly folders, updates on the school website and Skyward, parent newsletters, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent – Teacher – Student Council, phone calls, emails, or notes sent home, Intouch messages, Remind, School DoJo messages, RTI benchmark assessment and Fastbridge progress monitoring results are sent home, weekly assessment results, report cards, school-wide monthly newsletter from principal, TDS Facebook page, and progress reports as well as grade level objectives sent home. Meetings and information is translated as needed.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The Discovery School will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Each Title I school has a meeting during the fall to develop parent involvement plans for the school year. The School-Parent Compact is developed jointly during the fall parent involvement meeting. Parents are invited to help with the development of the compact and adjustments are made during the meeting.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **The Discovery School** will take the following actions to involve the families 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:

TDS has allocated \$875.88 for parent involvement. The budget for family engagement is developed jointly with parents during the spring budget meetings. Activities for this money are developed during the fall parent involvement meeting held annually. Parents are provided information on this money during the Title I annual meeting. Expenditures are discussed and obligated based on the fall parent involvement meeting. Parent workshops and activities are developed based on survey and parent input during the fall meeting.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Discovery 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 families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

TDS works closely with businesses to provide opportunities for students to connect schools to work with Career Day, Bush Core, Hogin Amusement, 4-H, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Shriners, DARE, Fire Safety, Kids Heart Challenge, Health Screenings, Police department visits, Field Day, and public library partnerships. Many opportunities are coordinated across the community to involve students in the support and resources for families to be involved in the local businesses.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Discovery School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

Our school will send home supplemental materials to help children to improve academics as requested. Workshops are held based on parental feedback on ways to help their children at school. Parent discipline meetings are held as needed to help parents support their children in the academic setting. **The Discovery School** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

To support families in the activities at school translation services are offered, as needed. Services are provided for parents that cannot read or write.

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

Please indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) school parent and family engagement policy components the school will implement to improve family-school partnerships:

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- Involve families in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
 - Provide necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
 - Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
 - Train families to enhance the engagement of other families.
 - To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or virtual in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and families who are unable to attend conferences at school.
 - Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement
 - Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
 - Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

All reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities are provided. Parents are offered this at each activity the school provides.