



Family/Community Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Empower College Prep agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Empower College Prep will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, Empower College Prep will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level family/community engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- Empower College Prep will incorporate this LEA-wide Family/Community Engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A Family/Community Engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Empower College Prep and its schools will provide full opportunities 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 ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Empower College Prep will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- Empower College Prep 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 Family/Community Engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- Empower College Prep will be governed by the following statutory definition of Family/Community Engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Family/Community Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful

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communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including the following—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- (C) 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;
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. **Empower College Prep** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its local education agency (LEA) Family/Community Engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - **Provide regular meetings and surveys for parents to gather feedback and incorporate their input into the plans’ goals and strategies**
 - **Provide opportunities for parents to participate in the annual comprehensive needs assessment and action plans meetings.**
2. **Empower College Prep** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - **Provide regular meetings and surveys for parents to gather feedback and incorporate their input into the plans’ goals and strategies**
 - **Provide opportunities for parents to participate in the annual comprehensive needs assessment and action plans meetings.**
 - **Provide ongoing communication and monitoring concerning the progress of the goals and objectives outlined in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment.**
3. **Empower College Prep** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective Family/Community Engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - **Reserve not less than 1% of its allocation under Title I, Part A to carry out Family/Community Engagement activities, including promoting family literacy and parenting skills.**
 - **Parents will be invited to participate in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment Team and have input into how funds reserved under Title I, Part A are allotted for Family/Community Engagement activities.**
 - **Opportunities for parents to participate in regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children.**



- **Parent suggestions will be documented and taken to the proper administrator and responded to as soon as practicably possible.**
 - **Provide instructional classes in areas as needed through a survey provided.**
4. **Empower College Prep** will coordinate and integrate Family/Community Engagement strategies in Part A with Family/Community Engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, and local programs:
- **Working collaboratively with local preschools to coordinate Family/Community Engagement strategies in transitioning students from preschool to Kindergarten.**
5. **Empower College Prep** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Family/Community Engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Family/Community Engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The local education agency (LEA) will use the findings of the evaluation about its Family/Community Engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its Family/Community Engagement policies.
- **Conduct an annual parent survey in order to determine the level of participation and to identify barriers that have prevented participation.**
 - **Parent surveys will be school-based and will be offered in English, Spanish and other languages to the extent practicable or explained by an interpreter.**
 - **Parent surveys will be available on Google forms and/or paper.**
 - **The school leaders will use the parent survey as baseline data for the upcoming year and establish a Family/Community Engagement participation goal for the next school year.**
 - **Develop and implement strategies to increase Family/Community Engagement based on survey data.**
 - **Utilize electronic communications and/or newsletters to notify parents of meetings and important school events.**
6. **Empower College Prep** will build the schools' and parents' capacity for Family/Community Engagement , in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- A. Empower College Prep will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
- ❖ 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 Part A,
 - ❖ how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - ❖ how to work with educators.
- **An annual meeting will be convened with the participation of school leaders to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I, Part A Services, Part A requirements, and parental rights to be involved.**
 - **Establish dates on the school calendar for parent/teacher conferences and review and agreement of the school parent compact.**
 - **School communication tools will provide information on school events and contact information.**
 - **Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.**
 - **Various support personnel may be invited to conduct workshops at our Title I schools to be administered during the school year. Scheduled dates and times of these workshops conducive to maximum parental participation.**

B. Empower College Prep will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster Family/Community Engagement, by:

- **Providing materials and training (as identified on the annual parent evaluation) to help parents work with their children to improve their school achievement.**
- **Providing necessary academic and behavioral training to meet the specific needs of our particular student population.**
- **Implementing an approach to improving Family/Community Engagement.**

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

- **Educating teachers, other school staff or volunteers and parents on Family/Community Engagement.**
- **Teachers and other staff conduct home visits at the beginning of the year to meet families, share school supplies, and transportation information. Throughout the year, home visits are made for truancy and for families who have a non-working number.**
- **Teachers and other staff contact parents on a regular basis through letters, phone calls, or in person meetings.**
- **Bringing community-based organizations and businesses in Family/Community Engagement activities.**
- **Parents are invited to participate in field trips and school events.**

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- **Parent teacher conferences are scheduled at the end of each quarter.**

D. Empower College Prep will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate Family/Community Engagement programs and activities with other relevant Federal, State, and local 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:

- **Offering workshops/events at the schools and at various times to accommodate parent schedules.**
- **Share any parent resources via the website or at the front office.**

E. Empower College Prep will take the following actions to ensure that 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:

- **Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.**
- **A translator is often available in their home language.**

PART III. DISCRETIONARY LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY -WIDE FAMILY/COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The Empower College Prep Family/Community Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that Empower College Prep, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1116(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- establishing a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and

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- providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.

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PART IV. ADOPTION

This Empower College Prep Family/Community Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by their participation in afore-mentioned events, including monthly parent meetings suggesting many of these processes..

This policy was adopted by **Empower College Prep** on **1/13/2020** and will remain in effect unless revised and voted on by Empower College Prep’s Governing Board. Empower College Prep will distribute this policy to all parents and families of students participating in the Title I, Part A program.

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