

# **Suffolk Public Schools Title I Family Engagement Policy**

Suffolk Public Schools values the joint responsibility of schools and families in educating students. We emphasize open communication and educational support for families. The term "parent" includes guardians, grandparents, and other involved family members. Our goal is to foster active family engagement and establish achievable learning objectives with parental support. This is accomplished through our Family Engagement Plan.

## **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS:**

Suffolk Public Schools agree to implement the following requirements consistent with Sections 1111, 1112, and 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary ACT (ESEA) as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015.

- Suffolk Public Schools will implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of families in all of its schools with Title I programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with input families.
- Suffolk Public Schools will incorporate components of the Title I Family Engagement Policy in the division's strategic plan.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A Family Engagement requirements, Suffolk Public Schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with children who are English Language Learners, disabled, and migratory. This includes providing the required information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, when possible, in a language parents understand.
- If the Suffolk Public Schools plan for Title I is not satisfactory to families, their comments will be included along with the plan for federal review when the plan is submitted to the Virginia Department of Education.
- Suffolk Public Schools will ensure that Title I Schools receive funds reserved for family engagement and that families are involved in decisions about how these funds are spent.

Suffolk Public Schools will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects Title I Schools to operate using this definition:

*Family engagement means the participation of families in meaningful communication involving student academic learning (academic achievement) and other school activities. Avenues for parent participation include:*

- 1) *active involvement in their child's learning;*
- 2) *partnership, input in decision-making, and collaboration with school staff and the community;*
- 3) *participation in parent training/workshops;*
- 4) *implementing activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*

**PART II. IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIRED DIVISION-WIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. Suffolk Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of the division-wide Family Engagement Plan under *Sections 1112 and 1116* of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA):
  - A division-wide Title I Parent Advisory Council will meet quarterly to establish a framework to assist parents in the education of their children.
  - The division will encourage selecting at least two parent representatives from each Title I school to serve on the division-wide Title I Parent Advisory Council.
  - The division-wide Title I Parent Advisory Council, when possible, will be representative of the following stakeholders: economically disadvantaged, disabled, English Language Learner (ELL), and/or limited literacy or any racial or ethnic minority background.
  - Agendas and minutes from the quarterly meetings will be available for parents to review on the Title I page of the Suffolk Public Schools website.
  - The district will use multiple sources to communicate with parents.
  - Each Title I school will form a Parent Advisory Council and conduct an annual fall meeting to inform parents about the school's involvement in the Title I program.
  - Opportunities will be offered for parents to attend Title I Parent Advisory Council meetings at the district and school levels to involve them in the school review and improvement process.
  - Curriculum, assessment measures, and the school report card will be provided to parents during the annual meeting.
2. Suffolk Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under *Section 1116* of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA):
  - The division-wide and school Title I Parent Advisory Council meetings will be open to all parents.
  - Opportunities will be available for Title I Parent Advisory Council members to review data with school staff and provide input to assist schools in modifying School Performance Plans.
3. Suffolk Public Schools will provide the following support to assist Title I schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student achievement:
  - The district will allocate funds for family engagement activities at each Title I school to promote increased academic achievement across all subject areas.
  - Title I schools will receive a budget for family engagement activities.
4. Suffolk Public Schools will coordinate family engagement with multiple community stakeholders to support division-wide and school family engagement initiatives.
5. Suffolk Public Schools will involve families in an annual evaluation of the Title I family engagement policy.

- Suffolk Public Schools will survey stakeholders in the spring of each year to determine the needs of families.
  - The results will assist in developing the School Performance Plan for each school for the upcoming school year.
  - As part of the School Performance Plan, each school will implement strategies to increase family engagement.
6. Suffolk Public Schools, with the assistance of Title I Schools, will strengthen family engagement by building partnerships with families and the community to improve student achievement through these activities.
- a. Suffolk Public Schools will provide assistance to help families understand these topics:
    - the state's Standards of Learning,
    - the state and local assessments,
    - the requirements of Title I, Part A, which include family engagement policies, complaint procedures, and Parents' Right to Know
    - how to work with educators
    - how to monitor their child's progress
    - online grade viewing system
  - b. Suffolk Public Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate family engagement programs and activities with various local community stakeholders/organizations, which could include:
    - Collaboration of services with the preschool program for at-risk four-year-old children - Early Start.
    - Offering workshops at schools and community facilities at various times to accommodate parents' schedules.
    - Providing support in planning and implementing family engagement meetings.
    - Multiple methods of communication of these activities.

Suffolk Public Schools has formed a division-wide Title I Parent Advisory Council to offer guidance on family engagement in the Title I program. All Title I schools will organize workshops and meetings at flexible times based on families' needs.

**PART III. ADOPTION**

Suffolk Public Schools division-wide Title I Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with and agreed upon with parents from each of the Title I schools, as evidenced by the minutes of the division-wide Parent Advisory Council meeting and attendance roster.

\*This policy was adopted by the Suffolk Public Schools division-wide Title I Parent Advisory Council on (April 20, 2023) and will be in effect for the period of one year.

*Melvin Bradshaw*  
(Signature of Authorized Official)

April 20, 2023  
(Date)

\*Last Policy Adoption: May 5, 2022