



Florida School for the Deaf & the Blind

Do More. Be More. Achieve More.

FSDB District-Level—Parent & Family Engagement Plan (PFEP)

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school that receives Title I funds must jointly develop a Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) with parents of participating children. The plans are agreed upon by parties involved in their development, and distributed to all “stakeholders” including parents, school staff, and administrators. Each written plan contains information required by section 1118 of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)*, which was later reauthorized as *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)* and most recently as *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)*.

Parent-family engagement in a child’s education is a greater predictor of academic success than whether that family is affluent or poor. That’s why Title I, Part A program regulations insist on robust parent and family engagement activities at every school where federal funds support effective teaching and engaged learning. (<http://www.fldoe.org/policy/federal-edu-programs/title-i-part-a-improving-the-academic-parents.stml>).

Students with engaged parents and families are most likely to:

- Learn to read faster (exhibit faster rates of literacy acquisition)
- Have higher grades and test scores
- Are promoted and take more challenging classes
- Adapt better to school and have better attendance
- Have better social skills and behavior
- Graduate from high school
- Go on to community/technical college or university or into the work force

Expectations are outlined in the Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP) for involving parents as partners in their child’s education and how each school will implement a variety of different parent involvement activities.

District-Level Support to Schools

At FSDB, there is a district-level Local Education Agency Parent and Family Engagement Plan (LEA PFEP) and each Title I school has a PFEP as well. Within the context of this LEA PFEP, FSDB strives to provide families and staff members with capacity-building opportunities that increase our combined abilities to support students’ academic and personal growth. FSDB will accomplish this by:

- Offering parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children;

- Strengthening district, school and family partnerships; and
- Providing capacity-building trainings for staff and families.

At the end of each school year, FSDB Parent Services facilitates a meeting to review the content of the LEA PFEP and its effectiveness in supporting Title I schools as related to parent engagement. Parents have the option to participate in the review virtually or by attending an on-campus meeting. The LEA PFEP for the upcoming school year is then developed incorporating feasible programmatic suggestions.

According to the FSDB 2019-20 Parent Climate Survey, 93 percent of families feel there are sufficient opportunities to be involved in their child's school.

Two percent of Title I grant funds are allocated as “parent set aside funds” and dedicated to supporting parent engagement. Each year Title I parents determine how this “parent set aside” will be spent. For the 2020-21 school year, the two percent set aside will be used to support the sustainment of our parent/legal guardian travel reimbursement program.

Parent Services offers reimbursement for expenses incurred when Title I families travel to attend approved educational classes, workshops or training sessions, in accordance with FSDB policies and Florida Statutes section 112.61. This program opens opportunities for families to attend capacity building meetings and events and is one of the most valued means of support for parent involvement activities in the Title I budget.

FSDB Parent Services facilitates Parent University, a combination of capacity-building classes and workshops offered to parents and families. Parent Engagement Workshops (PEW) provide full-day learning opportunities open to all FSDB families for the specific purpose of building parent capacity. Throughout the year, these efforts teach parents techniques to support student academic and personal growth. Title I funds can be used to reimburse parent travel to attend these classes.

School-level PFEPs and school-parent compacts are developed every fall during the first Title I parent meeting and are shared with families in the Title I Handbooks. These plans outline objectives such as developing parent partnership skills for staff and building parent capacity to support their children in obtaining academic goals. School-parent compacts, also completed in the fall, outline how parents, school staff, and students share the responsibility of improved student academic achievement.

“When schools work together with families to support learning, children are inclined to succeed not just in school, but throughout life.” —Florida Department of Education

The FSDB LEA Team works with each Title I school, providing technical assistance to meet grant requirements, offering feedback and support to each Assistant Principal to ensure the inclusion of all parents, and working in partnership to facilitate trainings for staff and families.

The Title I Coordinator assists in the development and distribution of the school-level PFEPs and Family-School Compacts in the fall of each school year and works with the Parent Liaison to disseminate Parent Right to Know (PRTK) information. PRTK informs parents that they have the right to know the professional qualifications of their child’s instructors and gives assurances regarding ‘highly qualified instructors.’

The Parent Liaison is available to Assistant Principals of each Title I school to provide continuous

support and assistance in planning and implementing capacity-building events and engagement opportunities for school parents/caregivers and staff.

Parent Engagement Workshops (PEWs) are full-day learning opportunities open to all FSDB families. Assistant principals are invited to schedule school-level Title I meetings prior to PEW events to increase parent attendance, collaborate efforts and consolidate parent travel.

The FSDB Learning Network, led by FSDB Instructional Services, is a professional development program for staff members. It provides opportunities at a variety of levels ranging from bits of knowledge to in-depth trainings. The Parent Liaison partners with the Learning Network to offer staff training for all FSDB employees focusing on the importance of a strong partnership between home and school.

Throughout the year, the Parent Liaison attends meetings, shares information and provides support to all staff to ensure that our schools and programs campus wide are family friendly.

FSDB staff members are encouraged to utilize the resources provided through the Florida Department of Education's Family and Community Engagement website (<http://www.fldoe.org/schools/family-community/activities-programs/parental-involvement/>).

Communication & Accessibility

The FSDB website, school newsletters and social media provide families with continuous access to information about opportunities for participation in educational activities. The current year LEA PFEP is shared on the school website in both English and Spanish. The plan is included in the Title I Parent Handbook provided to each family in the fall. Printed copies are provided to each school and made available during Title I school meetings. Interpreters and translators are present at all meetings, classes and trainings when requested so parents/guardians can receive information in their native language. Accommodations, such as braille, large print and ASL interpreters are provided for FSDB families upon request as needed to assure that all parties have the resources needed to participate. Questions may be directed to FSDB Parent Liaison Misty Porter at 904-827-2988 or porterm@fsdbk12.org.