

Title I Local Educational Agency Plan LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy Updated for 2024-2025

1. Rock Hill Schools will collaborate with parents and families to create a district-wide plan for parental and family involvement as required by section 1116 of the ESSA. This involves forming a committee of representative parents and family members who meet annually to review and enhance the district's policy. Parents are urged to join this committee and are informed about it through school newsletters and the district's website. Suggestions and changes to the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy are encouraged and will be implemented where possible. Every parent will have opportunities to give feedback by reaching out to the district and schools.

2. Rock Hill Schools will support Title I, Part A schools in organizing effective parental and family engagement activities to enhance student academic achievement and school performance through the district's ParentSMART Parent Education Partnership. This program provides parent educators who conduct personalized instructional visits. The goal of the personalized instructional visit is to empower parents and caregivers as their child's primary educator by demonstrating interactions between parent and child, providing appropriate materials and resources, and offering support in natural environments. Workshops are conducted in Title I schools and at the Family Learning Center at Sylvia Circle. Parent lending libraries have been set up in all Title I Schools. Additionally, the Family Learning Center offers various services to support parents and children, including York County First Steps, Family Connections of

South Carolina, certified counselors from SC Thrive Benefits Bank of SC, and the ESOL Welcome Center.

3. Rock Hill Schools strengthen parental and family involvement by providing a Title I Coordinator/Parent Specialist. This individual coordinates ongoing workshops and staff development in ELA and Mathematics in collaboration with schools, and arranges translators for Multilingual Learner parents and families during student conferences. Services for parents and families are provided through ParentSMART, along with resources available through parent lending libraries at schools and ParentSMART.

4. Rock Hill Schools integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Title I, Part A with several other programs:
 1. Collaboration with York County First Steps and the Early Learning Partnership of York County, alongside other district Parent Education/Family Literacy Programs. Grants from York County First Steps, the Sisters of Mercy Foundation and the Children's Trust of South Carolina support additional parent educators and materials.
 2. All Parent Educators in Rock Hill are certified in the Parents as Teachers curriculum (PAT), including certification in Teen Parents and Supporting Families of Children with Special Needs.
 3. The Rock Hill Schools ParentSMART Parent Education Partnership established the Family Literacy Partnership, initially funded by SC First Steps and currently funded by the SC State Department of Education under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Family Literacy Grant.

4. The Family Literacy Partnership follows the Even Start model, assisting parents with high school completion, ESOL education, citizenship, computer training, and career services, coordinated with the district's Adult Education Program.

5. Parents participate in all four components of the Even Start Family Literacy model, engaging in Adult Education, Parent Education, Early Childhood Education, and Interactive Literacy Activities together with their preschool children.

6. Collaboration with Head Start includes providing a building for the Rock Hill Chapter and organizing transition day for children entering kindergarten in public schools. Transition day is incorporated for students to familiarize themselves with the school they will be attending.

7. Rock Hill Schools offer staff development opportunities for Head Start, other private schools, and daycares in Rock Hill and neighboring areas.

5. Rock Hill Schools, with the involvement of parents and families, will annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family involvement policy to enhance Title I, Part A schools' quality. This evaluation will include a survey distributed at the end of the school year, with translated versions available for English Learners, and parent educators offering assistance as needed. The district provides bilingual services and actively engages with the Title I community to ensure accessibility.

Schools collect this data and return results to the District Office for analysis.

Findings are shared with parents and families during open meetings at the start of the school year. Feedback and suggestions for revisions from parents and families are always sought and valued, as they are essential for the district's Title I program operation.

6. Rock Hill Schools will engage parents and families in the school review and improvement process under section 1116 of the ESSA by:
 1. Notifying parents and the community about the district's and schools' adequate yearly progress through various channels such as Schoolwide Planning Team and School Improvement Council meetings, website postings, newspapers, school newsletters, and report cards.
 2. Conducting meetings and conferences for all grade levels to explain test scores and share data.
 3. Publishing the status of schools in improvement and holding meetings to explain further and gather input and recommendations from parents and families for improvement. Notifications will be sent via school newsletters and the district's telephone service.
 4. Encouraging parents and families to actively participate in their child's education by volunteering in school wide activities like Family Literacy and Math Nights, or morning workshops.
 5. Offering alternative ways for parents or family members unable to attend nighttime events to contribute, such as assisting with Book Fairs, participating in mentoring programs, attending PTO meetings, SIC council meetings, Title I meetings, and events, and regularly communicating with their child's teacher through weekly folders, phone calls, emails, or conferences.
 6. Encouraging participation in surveys to gather feedback on how the school can best meet the needs of their child. Using multiple communication methods (digital, printed, and personal) to reach parents and families enhances communication effectiveness.