Derry Area School District

District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

**PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Derry Area School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

* The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for parent and family engagement in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 6318(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
* Consistent with section 6318(b), the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 6318(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 6318(b) of ESSA.
* The school district will incorporate this District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy into its LEA (Local Education Agency) plan developed under section 6318(b) of the ESSA.
* In carrying out the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Engagement Requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district 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 6318(b) of the ESSA 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 6318(b) of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
* The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. When the Title I, Part A fund is greater than $500,000, one percent of allocation for parent and family engagement is required.
* The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring -

1. *that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s*

*learning;*

1. *that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their*

*child’s education at school;*

1. *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;*
2. *the carrying of other activities, such as those described in section 6318(b) of ESSA.*

* The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Center in the state.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED

DISTRICT- WIDE PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Derry Area School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 6318(b) of ESSA:

* At the spring *Parent Advisory Council* meeting, parents will review and approve the Parent and Family Engagement Policies for the upcoming school year. At the fall *Parent Advisory Council* meeting, the Parent and Family Engagement Policies will be discussed with the current members. At both meetings, suggestions and concerns from parents will be addressed.
* The Parent and Family Engagement policy will be mailed home to all parents at the beginning of school.

2. The Derry Area School District will take the following actions to

involve parents in the process of school review and improvement The Parent and Family Engagement Policy under section 6318(b) of ESSA.

* During Parent Advisory Council meetings, parents will be informed of current academic activities within the school. Parents then can review, critique and make suggestions to the Title I program.

3. The Derry Area School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

* The parent advisory council will assist and plan effective parent and family engagement activities throughout the school year.
* The Derry Area School District Parent Survey also requests input from parents on pertinent parent and family engagement activities.
* The Derry Area School District will disseminate information on best practices.
* The Derry Area School District will plan professional development for school and district personnel on parent and family engagement strategies.
* The Derry Area School District will support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community and at school.

4. The Derry Area School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Title I, Part A under the following other programs:

* Transitional meetings between pre-school agencies (Head Start, etc.) and the district’s primary guidance counselor

5. The Derry Area School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and families in parent and family 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parent and Family Engagement Policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents and families) its Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

* A parental survey will be administered at the end of the year to all parents in Title I school-wide building. The school-wide team will determine effective parent and family programs from results of the survey. Using resources provided by PDE, this survey will be designed by members of the Title I staff.

6. The Derry Area School District will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for

strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and families and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through activities specifically described in the policy.

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A

school, provide assistance to parents of children served by the

school district or 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 Title I, Part A;
      * how to monitor their child’s progress; and
      * how to work with educators.

The district’s Title I school-wide building will:

* provide parents, when requested, curriculum maps, guides and program of studies with all academic content and PA Core Standards addressed.
* conduct parent-teacher conferences to address students’ academic progress and local assessments with individual parents.
* share information on the PSSA with parents.
* provide all parents the district’s “*Parent Handbook”* to use as a resource.
* provide the address to the district’s website that contains pertinent parental information such as the school’s performance profile and Title I website.
* support an active and involved P.T.O.

B. The school district may, with the assistance of its Title I school and to the extent feasible and appropriate, 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 parent and family engagement by:

* Title I supports a “Parent Section” at the Caldwell Library with books and resources for parents to use. These resources are indexed for parents on the Title I website.
* C.A.R.E. (Community Assists Reading Education) is a literacy program that teaches parents and community volunteers strategies when reading with students.
* A “*Parent-Student Summer Jumpstart*” program engages parents and children in activities that will promote success for the new school year.
* The district organizes parent trainings providing instructional strategies.
* Grandview Elementary School organizes Grade Level Parent and Family Engagement Nights.
* Grandview Elementary School organizes Parents in Our School Days.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I school and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, 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:

* providing School-Parent-Student Compact that addresses the role of each for academic success of each child.

D. The school district may, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, transitional activities through the School Readiness Initiative of Westmoreland County, preschools and other programs, and conduct activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

* Title I Resource Center at Caldwell Library.
* United Way School Readiness Transitional Activities
* District Early Childhood Learning Transitional Events

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities are 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.

* The district’s Title I Coordinator will ensure that parent correspondences are accessible to all parents.
* The district shall provide communications, information and school reports to parents and family members who are migrants or have limited English proficiency, a disability, limited literacy, or racial and ethnic minority backgrounds, in a language they can understand.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT- WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY

ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONMENTS

The Derry Area School District recognizes that a child's education is the responsibility shared by the school and the family. In order to effectively educate all students, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners.

The district defines parent and family engagement as an on-going process that assists parents and families to meet their basic obligation as their child's first educator. It promotes clear two-way dialogue between home and school and supports parents as leaders and decision makers at all levels concerning the education of their children.

As a result, the district instituted a Title I Parent Advisory Council that meets twice a year.  This council is open to parents of all elementary students. This council’s membership is advertised in the district’s *“Parent Handbook”* and on the district’s website. The purpose of this council is to assist the Title I staff in the development, implementation, and evaluation of the school’s Title I schoolwide program.

**PART IV. ADOPTION**

This District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in a Title I, Part A program, as evidenced by the school’s Title I Parent Advisory Council.

\_Kara Gardner\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title I Coordinator

\_June 27, 2019\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date – Board Approval