Division-wide Title I Family Engagement Policy

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

A. Involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency’s Title I, Part A plan under section 1112, and the development of school support and improvement plans under section 1111(d).

B. Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities. These activities must improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;

For the purpose of Title I programming, the school division will be governed by the following statutory definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring—

- That families play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- That families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- That families 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;
- That families are offered a variety of activities at varying times to accommodate different schedules, including face-to-face and virtual.
C. Coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs;

D. Conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying—

- Obstacles to greater participation by parents/families in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy);
- The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
- Strategies that build and support successful school and family interactions both face-to-face and virtual.

E. Use the findings of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies described in this section; and

F. Involve parents in the activities of the schools, which may include establishing a family review committee comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the LEA to adequately represent the needs of the population. This advisory board will help develop, revise, and review the parent and family engagement policy.

G. Implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners, in a language the parents can understand, to inform them regarding how the they can—

- be involved in the education of their children; and
- be active participants in assisting their children to—
  - attain English proficiency;
  - achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and
  - meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students
PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DIVISION WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DIVISION-WIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Virginia Beach City Public Schools will take the following actions to involve families in the joint development of its Division-wide Title I Family Engagement Policy under section 1112 of the ESEA:

   The Title I team will develop and share the Family Engagement Policy with the Title I Family Review Committee for input, feedback and necessary amendments during the Family Engagement Training in the spring of the year prior to implementation. The policy will be reviewed again in September by the Family Engagement Liaisons. Family Engagement Liaison(s) and Family Review Committee members for all Title I schools in Virginia Beach will be selected and submitted to the Title I team by the school administrator by the start of each school year.

2. Virginia Beach City Public Schools will take the following actions to involve families of children in Title I schools in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

   The Title I team will use surveys administered by the school division to receive feedback on the school environment of Title I schools to include climate, curriculum support from staff, communication and involvement of community and families. The Title I team and school staff will consider this information when planning Title I funded initiatives and supports, both face-to-face and virtual.

3. Virginia Beach City Public Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

   The Title I team will develop and present professional learning for Title I Family Engagement Liaison(s) in September, November and February which will focus on improving student academic achievement and school performance. Team members will visit and/or support schools in the development of effective family engagement activities. Schools will report (using sign-in sheets and agendas) to the Title I team all family engagement activities taking place throughout the school year.

4. Virginia Beach City Public Schools will coordinate and integrate Title I family engagement programs and activities with Federal, State and local programs. The Title I team will collaborate with the division's Office of Family and Community Engagement to plan effective ways to enhance the relationships between the school, families, and community:

   - Virginia Beach Pre-Kindergarten (braiding with Virginia Preschool Initiative Grant)
   - After-school tutoring
   - Homeless programs
• Reading Bus
• Family Review Committee trainings (to include virtual trainings as well as locations which can provide resources for families—e.g., Public Library, Museum of Contemporary Arts, Advanced Technology Center, Technical and Career Center, Gifted Schools, Recreation centers, Tidewater Community College—throughout the city)
• Computer-based programs for home and school use (i.e., Storia, Imagine Learning, Nearpod, Flocabulary, myON, Legends of Learning)
• Summer programs that include Summer Learning Camps and STEM Camps

5. Virginia Beach City Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of families, an annual review of the content and effectiveness of this Title I Family Engagement Policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The review will include identifying obstacles to greater participation by families in family engagement activities (with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy). The school division will use the feedback when developing the Title I Family Engagement Policy and activities to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

   The Title I team will conduct Family Review Committee meetings throughout the school year to build the capacity of and provide resources for families and to receive feedback on the Title I Family Engagement Policy. The final training will be an opportunity to share grant information as well as get input on necessary changes needing to be made to build a stronger partnership between schools and families.

6. Virginia Beach City Public Schools will build the Title I schools’ and families’ capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of families and to support a partnership among the schools involved, families and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

   A. The school division will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to families of children served by the school division or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in the paragraph below:

   • the state and division academic content standards,
   • the state and division student academic achievement standards,
   • the state and division academic assessments including alternate assessments,
   • academic and career planning,
   • the requirements of Part A,
   • how to monitor their child’s progress, and
   • how to work with educators.

   Title I Schools will provide families with training that focuses on the student’s needs identified by data collection and family requests through surveys. Each event, either face-to-face or virtual, will align to the school’s Title I plan. Schools
will provide newsletters and other forms of communication to ensure families are provided with the appropriate information regarding state content standards, assessments and student academic achievement standards. The Title I team will assist in disaggregating data and preparing events as needed.

B. The school division will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, provide materials and training to help families work with their children to improve their academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster family engagement, by:

Providing family engagement events based on needs of each individual school and its community. Data collected from surveys and local and state assessments will drive the trainings. Some examples of school trainings include, but are not limited to:

- Pop-Up neighborhood visits
- Technology event
- Literacy event
- Math event
- STEM/STEAM event
- Content event
- Growth mindset workshops
- Social and emotional event
- PBIS
- Academic and Career Planning Resources and Destination Graduation
- Gifted information sessions
- Annual Title I event sessions
- Navigating the Journey by VBCPS
- Pre-K

The Title I team will assist in the development and delivery of these events as needed.

C. The school division will, with the assistance of its Title I schools and families, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with and work with families as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to implement and coordinate family programs to build ties between families and schools through:

- Principal trainings throughout the year
- Family Engagement Liaison trainings (3 times/year)
- Family Review Committee Meetings (3 times/year)
- School events-vary based on school needs

D. The school division will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate Title I family engagement programs and activities with local organizations which have a similar mission and focus, and conduct other
activities, such as family resource centers, which encourage and support families to more fully participate in the education of their children, by:

- **Staffing for Virginia Beach Pre-Kindergarten staff includes one Pre-K Instructional Specialist, two Family Engagement Specialists and four Pre-Kindergarten Resource Teachers who work with families and teachers.**
- **Being a member of the Virginia Beach City's Grow Smart team**
- **Partnering with community members: Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation, United Way, MOCA, Virginia Air & Space Center, Virginia Beach City Public Libraries, Tidewater Community College, NASA**

E. The school division will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the Title I school and family programs, meetings and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

- **The Title I team will collect fliers and agendas at the end of each year to audit communication between schools and families;**
- **The Title I team will assist in the development of fliers and agendas as requested by individual schools;**
- **The Title I team will prepare a Title I brochure (distributed each school year);**
- **The Title team will support a Title I webpage on the school division’s website, vbschools.com;**
- **The Title I team will post on Facebook and Twitter.**

Note: The Division-wide Title I Family Engagement Policy may be modified to include other activities that the school division, in consultation with its Title I families, chooses to undertake to build families’ 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 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving families in the development of professional learning for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that professional learning;
- providing necessary literacy educational opportunities for families from Title I, Part A funds, if the school division has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for those educational opportunities;
- assisting in providing necessary accommodations associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- educating families to enhance the involvement of other families;
- arranging school meetings at a variety of times, either face-to-face or virtual or conducting in-home conferences between educators who work directly with participating children, with families who are unable to attend those conferences at school in order to maximize family participation in their child’s education;
• adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement;
• establishing a division-wide family review committee to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
• developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities; and
• providing other reasonable support for family engagement activities under section 1118 as families may request.

PART III. ADOPTION

This Division-wide Title I Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, families of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agenda from the families attending the family review training/meeting February 26, 2021.

The information stated in this document will be in effect for the period of one year from approval. The policy will be posted to the Title I Virginia Beach City Public School’s website. Paper copies will also be available upon request.

Superintendent’s Signature
Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D.

Date 4/13/21