

Proposed Policy Changes

Section I: Instructional Program

Policy Code: IKB Parent & Family Engagement Under Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy-Title I

The engagement of parents and family is essential in the teaching and learning process. The Hinds County School District seeks to engage in a relationship with parents that will encourage parent and family engagement in all facets of the educational environment. A well-organized school-parent partnership improves the educational, emotional, and social development of students. The Board of Education, central office administrators, building principals, and teachers will participate in educational activities designed to establish and support an environment that fosters a positive home-school partnership. The board also encourages every school to form an active and effective parent-teacher organization.

The Hinds County School District provides school-wide or targeted assistance to eligible schools. Both programs allow schools to use research-based reform strategies to enrich the curriculum offerings. School-wide programs can use funds to improve the entire school. Target assistance programs focus on improving the academic achievement of specifically identified students with the greatest risk of non-success.

The school-home partnership will be fostered by:

- A. Involving parents and family members by inviting schools to identify/select parents to attend Parent Advisory Council and/or School Wide Planning Team meetings where they will serve on committees to assist in developing and reviewing the school-wide plans, School Improvement Plans, as well as the district plan;
- B. Providing the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within Hinds County in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance to schools through joint meetings of other local, state and regional social agencies such as workshops and trainings to be provided periodically to help parents learn how to help their children succeed in school;
- C. Coordinating and integrating parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, such as Parent Centers, Head Start, and daycare programs;
- D. Conducting, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual assessment of the content of and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools. Parent surveys, interviews, questionnaires, checklists, and/or phone calls will be used to gather information. Particular attention will be paid to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Also, efforts will be made to determine barriers to participation, such as lack of transportation, absence of child care, work schedules, unsuitable meeting times, locations, or lack of interest;
- E. Using the evaluation findings to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement and revise the parent and family engagement policies if necessary;
- F. Involving parents in the school activities, which may include providing literacy instruction, home-based teaching strategies, and other resources designed to help parents and family members participate in the education of their children.