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**School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

***Heritage High School***

***2020-2021***

***08/24/2020***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Heritage High School** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Policy establishes the school’s expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school’s plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

**Heritage High School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

* Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
* Update the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the Parent and Family Engagement Policy available to the local community.
* Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
* If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
* Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and 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:

(A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning

(B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school

(C) 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

(D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

*Each year parents are invited to a review meeting in which the previous year’s plan is reviewed and feedback/input is solicited for the next year’s plans. Parents are also provided the opportunity to give feedback through an annual Title I Parent Survey.*

**Heritage High School** will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

**ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Heritage High School** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents’ requirements, the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Schoolwide Plan, and the School-Parent Compact.

*Each fall, prior to the required due date, an Annual Title I Meeting is held. This is done in conjunction with another school event to aide parents in scheduling their time and school visits. All information regarding Heritage’s Title I program, including the parent involvement component is shared during this meeting.*

**COMMUNICATIONS**

**Heritage High School** will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

* Timely information about the Title I programs
* Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
* Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is 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:

*Heritage Parent Involvement Policy will be shared electronically through the school’s website and in hard copy located in the Parent Resource section of the Media Center. Parents will be made aware of its availability through class newsletters, School Messenger phone calls and emails, postings on the website, and other social media.*

**SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

*Invite the parents to a review meeting; solicit input using a survey; use input to develop responsibilities for all parties involved.*

**Heritage High School** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state’s high standards.

**RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

If applicable, **Heritage High School** will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by holding meetings and sending communication to parents for involvement.

*During the annual review meeting, the spending of the previous year’s funds will be shared with parents. Parents will then be given an opportunity to provide input on the spending of the current year’s funds based on a checklist of options and open response items.*

**COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

*Based on parent interest and scheduled parent events, Heritage will reach out to community members to support the events.*

**Heritage High School** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by working with appropriate agencies that can provide additional support.

**BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

**Heritage High School** will build the parents’ capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

* Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
* Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
* Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
	+ The challenging State’s academic standards
	+ The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
	+ The requirements of Title I, Part A
	+ How to monitor their child’s progress
	+ How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

*Based on parent feedback, Heritage will host parent workshops to support parents in assisting their students academically, socially/emotionally, and/or physically. This will begin with a parent curriculum night each semester where teachers share the expected curriculum and provide parents with resources.*

**BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

**Heritage High School** will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by: *Parent-teacher conferences; parent workshops offered by Heritage as a school and individual grade levels; RCPS Parent Academy; staff workshop participation based on school identified needs and goals, as well as individual staff professional needs and goals.*

**Heritage High School** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by: *As a part of PTO this year, students will be recognized and highlighted in various ways so that parents can see and enjoy their children in action at the school to help build that support system.*

**DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

**POLICY COMPONENTS**

* Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
* Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
* Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
* Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents.
* To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child’s education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
* Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement
* Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
* Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.