



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

James Rhoads Elementary School **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

School Year 2023-2024

Revision Date:

April 28, 2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, James Rhoads Elementary 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).

James Rhoads Elementary 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**

Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

James Rhoads Elementary 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.

During the Spring Title I meeting, the parents were invited to review and update the parent and family engagement policy and school parent compact. During this meeting, parents were provided with input on pertinent information to be included in the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact for the next school year. This Parent and Family Engagement Policy was jointly developed by staff and families at the Title I Spring parent meeting held on April 28, 2023.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

James Rhoads Elementary 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.

In the Fall (September 2023), the school will hold an Annual Title I meeting. During this meeting, the principal or designee will discuss in detail the Title I requirements. The following topics will be reviewed at the Fall meeting:

- *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*
- *Curriculum*

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

James Rhoads Elementary School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) 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.

- 1) All information sent home is in parent-friendly language. Translations are available through the School District and Interpreters. Parents can contact the school by phone or by visiting the school if they need assistance. The secretary, SBTL, and the administration are available to assist parents if they don't understand any and all information sent home.*
- 2) Parents are encouraged to complete a parent survey to provide feedback about the time of parent meetings and workshops along with other potential barriers to parent and family engagement.*
- 3) The school will open SAC meetings to the parent community for input.*
- 4) Meetings are held in the AM and PM to offer multiple times for families to attend.*

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

James Rhoads Elementary 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.

- *In the Spring, the parents were invited to participate in the writing of the Parent Compact. The parents were invited via an email and post in google classrooms sent to all parents. Parents/guardians had the opportunity to meet with the administration to discuss, review and give feedback on the compact on April 28, 2023.*

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, James Rhoads Elementary 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:

- *The Winter Meeting was held on 1/19/23 to discuss Title I funds where parents had the opportunity to make decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement will be spent.*

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

James Rhoads Elementary 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:

- *Pre-K programs are invited to visit Kindergarten classes and take a tour of the building. The teacher presents an activity to all students. The teachers meet separately to complete a transition plan as they prepare their students for Kindergarten. Our Pre-K neighbors are invited to various school events along with their parents. As events/assemblies are scheduled, our Pre-K neighbors receive notification that they are invited to attend. James Rhoads School will conduct a Spring Open House for all prospective Kindergarten families.*

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

James Rhoads Elementary 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
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- *Parents are invited to attend workshops on FamilyPortal to track their child's progress. Our school counselors and SISL are available to conduct the FamilyPortal training during parent conferences as well.*
 - *Literacy and Math workshops will be held for parents to assist in homework help or any additional topics that parents request. These will be determined through a parent survey that will go out during parent conferences.*
 - *Parents are solicited to become Classroom Parents who will share information to all parents in the class that the teacher deems necessary. Teachers will work closely with Classroom Parent Representatives to coordinate activities. Chaperones are identified for class trips and grades*
- All bulleted points will be covered during the Fall meeting.*

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

James Rhoads Elementary 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:

- *Professional Development opportunities will give teachers ideas in ways to work with parents as partners by increasing parental involvement in their classrooms. The PD will include online district training resources developed with parent input. Parent survey results will be incorporated into the PDs.*

James Rhoads Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- *Parents will be invited to the monthly SAC meetings and school data will be discussed at the spring meeting. Meetings with the parents to review the highschool application process and school selection.*

Principal's Signature

Megan Wapner

Date Signed

May 17, 2023

Megan Wapner 8/9/23