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Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Florida Virtual School
2019-2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Florida Virtual 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Florida Department of Education.

Florida Virtual School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, 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 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) 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, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, 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 LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 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 Florida Department of Education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

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 DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Florida Virtual School will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

Parents and families are surveyed at the end of each SAC meeting and prior to the end of year evaluation meeting. During the evaluation meeting, the School Improvement Plan/Title I, Part A school wide plan and Parent and Family Engagement Policy are reviewed at the school level. During this meeting, the district parent and family engagement policy is also reviewed, and parent input is solicited.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Florida Virtual School will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to 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:

District level components of family engagement are provided through school level Title I funded Family Engagement Specialists. The LEA utilizes the school parent survey to solicit requests for trainings, information, etc. The LEA also holds school level administrative meetings to discuss the CNA and SIP before, during and after the school year and progress monitor to ensure implementation. Ongoing technical assistance is provided directly to the Family Engagement Specialists through district level support along with Title I funded professional learning conferences, webinars, and memberships that support capacity building for effective parent and family engagement. The LEA also reviews the school level PFEP, school-parent compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements annually.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Florida Virtual School will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The

school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

The school level Family Engagement Specialist(s) conduct an annual evaluation meeting where the following information is reviewed: parent and family engagement survey results, student achievement data, school improvement plan, Title I school-wide plan, school and district level PFEP. Parent input is solicited throughout the meeting.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Florida Virtual School will involve the parents and family members 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 and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

During the annual evaluation meeting, parents are provided a copy of the prior year PFEP and Title I activities. The Family Engagement Specialist reviews the current school year's Title I activities and solicits feedback and input in the planning for the upcoming school year's activities. Parents review the 1% reservation and are provided an opportunity to discuss and provide input. After consultation with parents 100% of the reservation is allocated directly to schools for parent involvement. Parents are involved in the development of the LEA plan through the development of the Title I, Part A program. Parents participate in the LEA/District and school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plan and School Improvement Plan. Participation is facilitated through virtual meetings, distribution of the plans, and surveys.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Florida Virtual School will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: **[IDEA, Title II, Part A, Title IV, Part A]** that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

The school family engagement specialist/liaison collaborates with both the Title I and ESE department to increase participation of ESE parents at Title I meetings and targeted ESE parent workshops/trainings. Title II and Title IV, Part A funds are coordinated to provide professional development activities for Title I teachers and families that support SIP and Title I initiatives.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Florida Virtual School will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State 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

The LEA in collaboration with the Title I schools provides information and training to help parents work with their children to improve their students' academic achievement. FLVS Full Time uses multiple systems to promote two-way communication with families using all available technologies including, but not limited to, Blackboard, Focus, e-mail, phone (text and apps) and social media. These communication systems allow FLVS Full Time to provide full opportunities to all parents, even those with limited English and who experience disabilities. The Family Engagement Specialists hold orientations at the beginning of the year, host TIPA meetings, quarterly family coffee chats, test-taking strategy information sessions, and add all information into the monthly newsletters solicit parent and family engagement. These strategies are communicated and advertised to families thru the Student Information System (FOCUS) portal, via text, and email. Literacy coaches are available to families and provide support in the area of literacy. FLVS has a help desk available daily to troubleshoot any technical issues and tutorials are available on how to use the student information system.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Florida Virtual School will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff 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 schools by:

At the Annual Title I, Part A meeting in the beginning of the school year, teachers are trained in the importance of school and parent programs. The LEA also holds school level administrative meetings to discuss the CNA and SIP before, during and after the school year and progress monitor to ensure implementation. The Family Engagement Specialist(s) works with the enrollment office and ELL Literacy team to identify speakers of other languages and encourage participation of ELL families at Title I meetings. Translation needs are identified so notifications and translation services can be provided if deemed necessary and appropriate. The Family Engagement Specialist(s) also collaborates with the ELL Team to provide information on services available to ELL students and parents through the Title I/Family Engagement/school newsletter.

BARRIERS THAT MAY HINDER PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Florida Virtual School identifies the barriers through surveying parents and families after each meeting and prior to the annual Title I meeting.

Barriers and strategies identified to reduce barriers include:

- 1. Lack of time (all subgroups)- Continue to encourage parents to attend the activities through multiple communications and advise parents who cannot attend to view the recorded presentation on FLVSFT's website. K-5 utilized a new communication tool that text and allowed parents to link right on their mobile phone and saw an increase in parent communication.*
- 2. Parents can be overwhelmed with the technology (all subgroups). This is especially true for the K-5 School. FLVS Full Time will continue to encourage all parents to receive the training that is offered by FLVSFT, so they better understand the tools available to support their student. Teachers also serve as a resource to assist parents in understanding the learning management system and the tools available. The 6-8 Middle School held an additional parent training at the start of the school year to showcase some of the tools available to them with all the technology. Feedback received from this parent training (course) was positive and will be utilized again in 2019-20. Elementary Resource Center – K-5 implemented the elementary resource center to provide a central location for all Family*

Resources. Both the Elementary and Middle Schools use Focus, which is a central location for posting school and family engagement resources. With web redesign, it has moved, and for the 2019- 20 school year, a “webpage” for family engagement resources as well as all Title I Documentation will be created.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the Annual Title I meeting discussion dated May 16, 2019.

This policy was adopted by the **Florida Virtual School** on **July 1, 2019** and will be in effect for the period of the 2019-2020 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 16, 2019.

Katherine Santana

(Signature of Authorized Official)

September 19, 2019

(Date)