

# Bellville Independent School District

## ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Policy

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Bellville Independent School District (BISD) is committed to providing quality education to every student in the district. Partnerships with parents, family members, and the community are essential to this goal as neither home nor school can achieve this goal independently. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high student achievement. Parents and family members play an important role as their children's first teachers, and their support is critical to their children's success. BISD intends to include parents and family members in all aspects of the district's Title I programs to create a school-home partnership that will promote student success. The district believes that establishing and maintaining open lines of communication will expand and enhance learning opportunities and create the best learning environment for every child.

### **Develop Jointly**

The Title I Campus Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) Committees are comprised of school personnel, parents, and community members. The campus SBDM committees will annually review the District ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and revise it as necessary. The BISD District SBDM committee is comprised of parents, members of the community, teachers, school principals, and district administration. This committee which develops the District Improvement Plan will incorporate the District ESSA Parent and Family Engagement Policy into the District Improvement Plan, resolve differences to the plan from the campus SBDM committees, if needed, and suggest revisions to the Title I Campus SBDM Committees as needed.

### **Build Capacity of Schools**

BISD will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other necessary support to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in the district in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. BISD will work with Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plans meet the requirements of the ESSA. BISD will provide the following to Title I schools: support from the Executive Director of Special Programs, professional development provided to Title I Intervention Teachers and Paraprofessionals, technical assistance with Title I budget, job descriptions, time and effort documentation, TEA validation requests, private non-profit school consultation and coordination, and other compliance issues. BISD will provide technical support for Title I intervention teachers and campus staff with assessments, intervention programs, and coordination with other special programs. BISD will provide support and training to principals, teachers, and staff to promote the parent and family engagement opportunities including training developed with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents/families, 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 the parents and the school.

### **Parent Assistance**

BISD will, with the assistance of Title I schools, provide assistance to parents/families in understanding such topics as the challenging state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, how to monitor a child's progress, and how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their

children. Opportunities for assistance will include campus Title I meetings, parent/teacher conferences, presentations at PTO activities, letters/text messages sent home, and ESL parent education Fiestas.

### **Coordinate Services**

BISD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other federal, state, and local programs by considering these strategies in the needs assessment of the district and if necessary, integrating strategies into the District Improvement Plan.

### **Opportunities for Parental Involvement**

Parents can become involved in their children's education through a variety of ways. BISD values both the at-home contributions of parents and those that take place at the school or in the community. Reading to children at home and talking with them at family meals or other family outings are as important as volunteering at school and serving on advisory committees. Many types of parent and family engagement are needed in school-home-community partnerships to help all children succeed. BISD will offer many opportunities for parent and family engagement in the school including, but not limited to the following:

- Parents may contribute through volunteer programs;
- Parents may participate by attending school meetings at a variety of times;
- Parents are invited to serve on committees;
- Parents are invited to develop training for educators;
- Parents are surveyed to get their input about school.

### **Parent/Staff Communication**

Parents will be informed of school activities through various avenues of communication throughout the school year. Websites, newsletters, teacher notes, the school marquee, conferences, personal contacts, phone calls/text messages, emails, and written notices will be used to establish and maintain open lines of communication with parents. The district will welcome and respond to efforts by parents to communicate with the school. Parents may request a translator for conferences, and as much as possible, communication will be sent home in a language parents understand.

### **Evaluation and Response**

Parents and family will be asked for their input on the content and effectiveness of the Title I parent and family engagement programs through an annual evaluation of the Title I program conducted by each Title I Campus. BISD will assess the needs of parents and children in the school community using a variety of tools including a survey or questionnaire and including parent suggestions and/or requests. The evaluation will include an assessment of overall parent and family engagement and identify barriers to parent and family participation that still need to be overcome, needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The findings will be used to revise the Title I program to meet the current needs, including any reasonable support for parental involvement activities requested by parents, to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement in the District and/or Campus Improvement Plan, and to revise, if necessary, the district and/or school parent and family engagement policies. If necessary, workshops or other training will be made available to educators and parents to address these identified needs. Parents will be notified about materials and training provided to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as in literacy and technology. The district and each campus will welcome and receive at any time recommendations about the Title I program.