

***Hamlin School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy ESSA
Updated: August 2018***

The Hamlin School District recognizes that a child's education is a responsibility shared by the school and family during the entire period the child spends in school. To support the goal of the school district to educate all students effectively, the school and parents must work as knowledgeable partners. A major goal of the Hamlin School District Title I Program is to encourage greater engagement of parents and families in the education of their children in partnership with Title I and their school. The following outline is in compliance with legal requirements (PL 114-95) and is in accordance with the Hamlin School District's Mission Statement... ***"To prepare and equip our students to become responsible citizens and succeed in an ever-changing world."*** We encourage parents and families to help us to meet the challenge of that mission as we jointly work with our students. Likewise, this statement represents input from parents and will be available to all parents of Title I children.

A. An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy will take place. As school begins, a letter will be sent to all parents of children attending the Hamlin School District informing them that their child(ren) are considered Title I students since the Hamlin School District is a Schoolwide Title I Program in the elementary and middle school. Parents and families will be surveyed in order to jointly develop and maintain the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Survey questions will be developed in order to identify the barriers to greater participation by parents in activities. Parents will be given a copy of the policy each year and will be asked for input through surveys, public meetings, or any other means in order to gain greater engagement by families in an ever-changing world. Greater attention will be given to groups of families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. From that information, better strategies to engage families will be developed in order to make the policy a fluid policy that can keep up with the differing needs of the parents and the families served by the Hamlin School District.

B. Responsibilities of parents and suggestions for projected home-school partnerships will be presented through communication with parents throughout the year. The Parent Compact is given out during parent meetings and is also available with the Title I Director, or the Superintendent of the Hamlin School District. This document outlines the 3-way partnership that exists between students, parents, and educators in educating children in the district.

Often times, busy parents and families have differing ways in order to be engaged in their child(ren)'s educational process. Barriers exist in timing of school events, school meetings, Parent/Teacher Organization meetings, etc. In order to continue to help parents remain involved, resources valuable for parents will be provided at a central site and will be sent home with students in order to help parents remain engaged within their own time frame. These are sent in the child's own language whenever possible. These shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Books about reading with children and parenting techniques.
2. Pamphlets on "How to Help with School Work," etc.
3. Books and videos (as available).

The Hamlin School District's library is open to the public to encourage families to read together and to go to the library together, when available. All students throughout the building are highly encouraged to use the library facilities in order to check out books. The Accelerated Reader Program is used in the Kindergarten through 8th grade reading programs. Various forms

of incentives are used to encourage students to read. Staff in grades 9 through 12 promotes the Hamlin Book Club program to encourage students to continue to read as a life-long skill. The Parent/Teacher Organization collaborates with the Title I department in order to offer family fun nights at times that are more conducive to parent work schedules in order to engage families in the district to be in the school building engaged in family-friendly, but educational, events.

Specific measureable objectives from these activities would be:

1. Increase attendance at Family Fun Nights.
2. Increase attendance at Parent/Teacher Conferences
3. Increase parent involvement in reading activities in the classroom

C. Throughout the school year, various staff inservices are conducted. In order to build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, a strand of these inservices will be directed toward more effectiveness in working with parents and toward building home-school partnerships. This will be a part of inservices as appropriate and applicable. This strand may include conferences beyond our local level, if available.

D. Each Title I school will provide opportunities to parents for ongoing consultation, evaluation and input toward achieving program goals and developing a feeling of partnership.

E. Communication with parents will include, but not be limited to, sharing of the South Dakota State's approved reading and math standards with parents. Each set of parents will receive a copy of their child's grade-level reading/math standards each year. In addition, parenting tip pages, notices, other mailings, phone calls and conferences will be ongoing. Parent conferences are scheduled so that various times in the day are options in order to help parents with unique work schedules be engaged in their child(ren)'s academic, social, and emotional development. The Parent Portal on the DDN Campus also offers the option for parents to have continuous insight on the achievement of their student(s).

F. In awareness of parents lacking literacy skills or where the native language is not English, provisions will be made as far as practical for translations of printed material or provisions of attending translators. General awareness as well as specific attention will be encouraged for coordination with programs under Adult Education Act. This commitment to family engagement will be approved by the Hamlin School District Board of Education and will be coordinated through Title I staff leadership. Direct participation and initiative is deemed a requirement of each Title I staff member.