



## **Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five 2018-2019 Parent Engagement/Involvement Policy**

Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five encourages, supports and values engagement/involvement of parents and families in the educational experience of their children. The district recognizes that the parents are the child's first teacher and acknowledges the impact that parents have on a child's academic success. The district commits to developing family-friendly schools, offices and programs that welcome and serve parents and families in a positive and supportive environment.

**Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five adheres to the mandates set forth by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/Every Child Succeed Act, Title I.**

**Involve parents with joint development of the district plan and in the process of school review and improvement.**

- Collaborate with community stakeholders at all levels of district and school strategic planning through School Improvement Councils, Title I planning committees, PTO, etc. in the development of goals.
- Schoolwide planning teams review the school wide plans and provide input into revisions, additions, and deletions for activities and budget.
- Findings from the school's needs assessment will be utilized.
- Present Title I program/activities and requirements of Title I at parent meetings.
- Schoolwide plans are also presented to parents at an annual meeting each year.

**Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent engagement/involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

- Parents are involved in the decisions regarding how funds are allotted for parental engagement/involvement activities.
- No more than 1% of the Title I allocation will be reserved for parent engagement/involvement activities including family literacy and parenting skills.
- Provide training to school staff, administration, and parents to strengthen parent engagement/involvement efforts by reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners.
- The Title I program will provide coordination for effective parent engagement/involvement through the school's School Improvement Council.

**Build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement/involvement.**

- Involve parents in the planning of the Title I plan.
- Provide parent conference opportunities throughout the school year.
- Family nights are offered and provide information on literacy, math, assessments, monitoring their child's progress, science, and the state's academic standards.
- Volunteer programs are supported in schools.
- Parents are invited to observe in classrooms.
- Provide a Parent/Student Orientation Night at the beginning of school year.

**Conduct, with the engagement/involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental Engagement/Involvement policy that will determine the effectiveness of the present policy and any barriers to participation in the parenting activities.**

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the parent engagement/involvement policy through an annual survey conducted in the spring and during the fall semester.
- Appropriate revisions are made based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement.
- The final parent engagement/involvement policy is distributed to parents in the fall and will be placed on the district's website.
- The policy will be updated as needed and reviewed annually by parents, community members, school and district administrators, and school staff members in order to continuously meet the changing needs of parents, students, and the school.
- The findings of this evaluation will be used to design strategies for more effective parental engagement/involvement and to revise the parent engagement/involvement policy, if necessary.
- Frequent reminders, such as flyers, newsletters, telephone contacts, and email messages, will be provided to parents concerning meetings, workshops, and conferences.

**Involve parents in the activities of the school served under Title I, Part A.**

- Schedule parent-teacher conferences at a variety of times to accommodate parents' schedules.
- Provide family night workshops.
- Encourage two-way communication between home and school through newsletters, email, phone calls, home visits, parent conferences, surveys, etc. in an understandable and uniform format.

**Develop jointly with parents a school-parent compact.**

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the school-parent compact.
- Appropriate revisions are made based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement.
- The revised compact is discussed by the teacher, the parent, and the student.
- The compacts involve parents by having them make a commitment to share the responsibility for their children's performance.
- The school and parents build and develop a partnership to help the students achieve the state's standards.

**Orangeburg Consolidated School District Five shall also implement the following provisions set forth by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act/Every Child Succeed Act:**

- **Certified Teachers** – As a parent of a student enrolled in a Title I School, parents have a right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner:
  - Whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching.
  - Whether the teacher is teaching under a provisional status through which the state qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
  - The teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and the teacher's area of certification.