

## DICKINSON MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Dickinson Middle School who receive Title I, Part A funds must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating students a written School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy that contains information required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the school may implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities. This policy must be incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the District.

### Definitions

This policy defines the following:

- *Parent* means a biological, adoptive, step or foster father or mother, or any other individual who stands in loco parentis to the student.
- *Parental involvement* 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; and
  - d. Other activities are carried out, such as those described in ESSA.
- *Family/family members* are adults living in a student's household who are related to the student **[and/or adult relatives living outside the student's household who, based on a school administrator's knowledge, play a direct and active role in the student's education (e.g., volunteer in school, attend school meetings)]**.

### School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy Requirements

**Dickinson Middle School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined in law:

1. 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 District-Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the joint development of the targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
2. Update the School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating students, and make the Parent and Family Engagement Policy available to the local community.
3. Provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory students, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under ESSA in an

understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

4. If the schoolwide program plan for Title I, Part A is not satisfactory to the parents of participating students, the school shall submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the district.

### **School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components**

The School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy includes a description of how the school may implement or accomplish each of the following components:

#### **1. Joint Development**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall take the following actions to involve parents and family members in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I, Part A 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.

Parent Advisory Councils in Title I schools will be involved in the development and periodic review of the School-Level and District-Level Parental and Family Engagement Policies.

#### **2. Annual Title I, Part A Meeting**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating students to attend to inform them about the school's Title I, Part A program, the nature of the Title I, Part A program, the parents' requirements, the School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Dickinson Middle School will provide several opportunities to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. Some of these dates would be our Open House in August and parent-teacher conferences during the fall.

#### **3. Communications**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall take the following actions to provide parents of participating students the following:

- a. Timely information about the Title I, Part A programs,
- b. Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I, Part A funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement, and
- c. Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating students in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Dickinson Middle School will provide copies of the School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact and other Title I policies on the Dickinson Middle School website, at our open house, and parent-teacher conferences.

**4. School-Parent Compact**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating students a school-parent compact (KAB-E) that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students may share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents may build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the state's high standards.

Parents will be involved in developing the School-Parent Compact through participation in the Parent Advisory Committee, surveys, the Title I Annual Reviews, and the West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center.

**5. Reservation of Funds (only applicable to districts with Title I, Part A allocations of \$500,000 or more)**

If applicable, the **Dickinson Middle School** shall take the following actions to involve the parents and family members of students 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 is spent by:

A survey is conducted during the annual review process. The survey includes informing parents that 1% of the Title I allocation (and the approximate amount) is set aside for parent involvement activities through West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center. This survey provides parents with the opportunity to indicate whether or not they are in agreement with how the district is using these funds and an opportunity to provide suggestions / comments.

**6. Coordination of Services**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such West Dakota Parent and Family Resource Center, Sunrise Youth Bureau, Stark County Social Services, and Badlands Health and Human Services that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by: providing activities that support parents and students as students transition from primary to elementary and elementary to secondary, social and emotional development, homework support and enrichment activities, parent night, parent volunteer opportunities, and opportunities to participate in parenting classes.

Research based information on encouraging parents on how to prepare children for school, how to support them while in school, and how to be a partner in the education of their children, is included in every 6 week parenting program. These programs include: Love and Logic, Conscious Discipline, The Incredible Years, Positive Parenting, Circle of Security, The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Families etc.

Through Community Partnerships the Parent Center works with these local agencies to educate parents. The local Health Unit, The Key Infant Development Program, Head Start, Early Head Start, The Sunrise Youth Bureau, The RASP program, The Adult Learning Center, The Local United Way, The local County social services, extension offices providing parenting programs. Other areas that have been requested by parents are: Kindergarten Transition Nights, Risk Behavior Awareness, Helping with Homework, Setting up Home Routines, Leaving Children Home alone, Setting Boundaries group sessions with parents and their

## REQUIRED

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kids, Communication through sessions like helping children make transitions , healthy nutrition etc.

### 7. **Building Capacity of Parents**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall 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:

- a. Provide 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;
- b. Provide 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; and
- c. Provide assistance to parents of participating students, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - i. The challenging State's academic standards,
  - ii. The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
  - iii. The requirements of Title I, Part A,
  - iv. How to monitor their child's progress, and
  - v. How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.

Information will be provided to parents through the school and district online dashboard, school district profile information, individual student achievement results, parental access to Power School, school district websites, school newsletters, the West Dakota Parent and Family Newsletter, parent/teacher conferences, and annual notice of the "Parents Right to Know".

### 8. **Building Capacity of School Staff**

**Dickinson Middle School** shall 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:

Dickinson Middle School staff will be educated through building level communication, distribution of school and West Dakota Parent and Family Newsletters, access to parent resources and district-wide training opportunities.

### **Policy Adoption and Dissemination**

This policy will be in effect for the period of one school year. Dickinson Public School District shall distribute this policy annually to all parents of participating Title I, Part A students.

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