

District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Sumter County Schools

2024-2025 School Year

What is Title I?

Sumter County School District is identified as a Title I District as part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. Sumter County must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

Parent and Family Engagement Events

Sumter County Schools will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. (Specific dates and times will be listed on the individual school plans and websites.)

- Open House/Meet the Teacher Events – August 2024
- Title I Annual Meeting – August/September 2024
- Fall Parent-Teacher Conferences – September – November 2024
- Fall Title I & ESOL Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meeting – November 6, 2024
- Spring Title I & ESOL PAC Meeting – February 13, 2025
- Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences – February – March 2025
- Academic Nights (Science Night, STEM Night, Parent University) – Various Dates and Times Set by the Schools

Other Parent and Family Engagement

Sumter County School District believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Monthly/Quarterly Parent newsletters, containing information on Title I, and School Advisory Enhancement Council and Parent Teacher organization.
- Information and links posted to school website, social media, marquee to keep parents informed.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.

- 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.

Barriers

Parents reported at the district PAC meeting that participation at Parent and Family Engagement events was hindered during the 2023-2024 school year due to parent work schedules and transportation. The schools collaborated to discuss alternating times and days of events for parents.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Sumter County School District and our families will develop a school-parent compact at each Title I school (elementary only). This compact is an agreement developed with parents, teachers, and students to ensure all students reach grade level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and revised annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers at PAC meetings. The School-Parent Compacts are shared with parents during open house or at parent-teacher conferences.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

Each school will create a Title I School-wide Plan/School Improvement Plan to increase student achievement based on student data.

How is it revised?

Each Title I Sumter County School invites all parents to attend annual SAC and PAC Meetings to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide improvement plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during parent meetings and other activities during the school year.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Sumter County Schools will provide the opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, disabilities, and of migratory children.

Where is it available?

The Parent and Family Engagement Plan is posted on the school website. Parents can request a copy of the plan from their child's school.

Curriculum

Parents can contact teachers throughout the year to access grade level standards, as well as core and supplemental curriculum. Title I Literacy Nights will address student achievement, standards, curriculum, and state and local assessments. At Teacher-Parent Conferences, teachers will address the individual needs of students with parents, by providing up-to-date data reports and addressing mastery of grade level standards.

District Goals

The Sumter County School District will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- Ensure all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is available on the school website. Skyward, Parent Square messages, event flyers and social media are also used for parent communication, in addition to the monthly/quarterly school newsletter for all families.
- Provide trainings for staff with strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement.
- Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- Share information in English and Spanish on the school website and in the school newsletter for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through phone messages, Parent Square messages, social media, and flyers.
- Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.

- Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- Use our PAC, SAC and other partners in education to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement policy.
- Collect feedback from parents and family members at events, provide input cards, and parent surveys to support family engagement activities.
- A "Parent Right to Know" letter is sent home at the beginning of each school year to all students at the elementary and middle school level. This letter provides the right of parents to request the professional qualifications of their child's teacher. In the event a student is assigned a teacher that is "Out of Field" for four or more consecutive weeks the school will notify the parents through the school newsletter, school website, or a letter home.

If you are a person with a disability who needs any accommodation in order to participate in this event, you are entitled, at no cost to you, to the provision of certain assistance.

Parent and Family Engagement Mission

The District Parent Advisory Council functions to build relationships between the Sumter County School District, parents, and the community in setting standards of helping families hold high expectations for their children's education in order to prepare students to be college and career ready. We will enhance these relationships by supporting various forms of communication between home and school, with diverse school activities and the development of appropriate home learning opportunities.

School Advisory Council (SAC)

The Sumter County School District invites all parents to attend SAC meetings to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but parents and family members can submit ideas or suggestions at school activities, meetings, parent surveys and the school website. If you would like to learn more about SAC, please contact your child's school.

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in link below for an electronic form.

Parent and Family Engagement Input

- School Improvement Plan
- Parent and Family Engagement Plan
- Parent and Family Engagement Funds

Parent Input Form, Use QR code or link: <https://forms.office.com/r/y8MBRLtDy>

