

# Cowgill R-VI

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2018-2019

### What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- That 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

### Parent and Family Engagement Policy

- Cowgill R-VI School District has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parent and family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I school. This plan will describe the district's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I school to implement parent and family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals. When school, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, graduate and enjoy his/her school experience.
- Title I, Part A provides for substantive parent and family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district plan, and in carrying out the district improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for a school to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the Cowgill R-VI School District will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policy meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

### Jointly Developed

The Cowgill R-VI School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan:

- Invite all parents to participate and provide suggestions and ideas during the Annual Stakeholder District meeting in the spring (March/April) to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the upcoming school year. The district sends a text alert through our parent communication system to parents informing them about this meeting and posts announcements on the school district website and monthly newsletter. During this meeting, parents also review, discuss and provide feedback about the Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

- Invite parent comments and feedback from all parents, any time to involve parents in the development of the parent and family engagement policy, the district plan, and the use of parent and family engagement funds.
- Provide parents access to the information in the district's parent and family engagement policy through the district website and engage in open communication about the plan during parent meetings and school advisory meetings.
- Conduct an annual review of parent and family engagement activities and discuss ideas for increasing parent participation by identifying barriers, developing strategies to remove barriers to parent participation, and encouraging the implementation of strategies to support school and family interactions. Solicit parent input as to how Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities will be used and how these funds can support the needs of parents and family members to be able to help their child learn.
- Solicit parent feedback and input continuously through school advisory meetings, weekly Friday conferences, newsletters and district websites. All feedback received is included with the policy for this school year. The feedback form is used to inform the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy so that the evidence-based strategies incorporated into the policy are meaningful and relevant for parents.
- Post the district parent and family engagement policy on the district websites, distribute during the annual Title I school meeting and make hard copies available in the front office.

### **Technical Assistance**

The Cowgill R-VI School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A School in planning and implementing effective Parent and Family Engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- Provide ongoing assistance and support via the Title I Program Director to ensure parent and family engagement requirements are being satisfied, and that parent and family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Speakers from the NWRPDC will be utilized to lend their expertise in engaging parents and families and/or sharing resources available to support parents and families. Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in July for the Board of Education to review Parent and Family Engagement requirements and plan opportunities for Parent and Family Engagement activities and meetings for the following year.

### **Reservation of Funds**

The Cowgill R-VI School District reserves 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the Cowgill R-VI School District will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I school to support their school's local-level parent and family engagement programs and activities. These programs and activities are designed to build parents' and family members' capacity to support their child academically.

Cowgill R-VI School District will host an annual School Improvement Meeting in late Spring for parents to provide suggestions as to how these parent and family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district-level. Additionally, a feedback form is posted on school websites to solicit parent and family input as to how Title I funds for parent and family engagement activities will be used and how these funds can support the needs of parents and family members to be able to help their child learn. Suggestions from these meetings and the feedback forms are reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication in developing an adequate parent and family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

## **Opportunities for Parent Consultation**

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, school, and students in reaching our student academic achievement goals.

### **District Meeting ~ March BOE Meeting**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Cowgill R-VI School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the CSIP for the upcoming school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be posted and placed in the monthly newsletter. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

### **School Improvement Meetings~ March/April/May**

During this window of time, the Cowgill R-VI School District will host a parent input meeting for parents to participate in roundtable discussions to review the school improvement plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies, school compacts as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. The District will send a letter home and email and/or send a text to parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Invitations will also be made available on the school websites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

## **Building School and Parent Capacity**

The Cowgill R-VI School District will build the school' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

### **Assistance to Parents**

The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A School, assist parents of children served by the school district, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as:

- Missouri Learning Standards
- Missouri Assessment Program
- Local Assessments
- Title I, Part A requirements
- Strategies parents can use to support and monitor their child's academic progress
- Partnering with the teacher to support their child's academic achievements

### ***Materials and Training***

Cowgill R-VI School District will provide informational meetings and workshops for parents to gain knowledge about the state-adopted standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Missouri students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these meetings and workshops will be posted on the school's website and/or newsletter sent home. Dates and times for these meetings and workshops will be determined and announced by the school.

Cowgill R-VI School District will also provide parents with resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home.

***Coordination of Services***

Cowgill R-VI School District will coordinate and integrate the district's parent and family engagement programs with Parents as Teachers. The District will provide information and resources to support school orientation for parents and students to assist in successful student transitions to kindergarten. In the spring, the elementary school will host Kindergarten registration days so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for Kindergarten. Also, late in the spring elementary, middle and neighboring high schools will work together to assist students and parents with school transitions from elementary to middle school and from middle school to high school.

***Communication***

Cowgill R-VI School District will ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in Spanish and to the extent practicable in other languages as the need arises. The school will use bilingual parent liaisons to assist and facilitate ELL parent involvement. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

***Building Staff Capacity to Equip Personnel with Strategies to Increase Parent and Family Engagement***

Cowgill R-VI School District with the assistance of its school and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and school. Cowgill R-VI School District will provide staff development using Canvas course on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement. Through in-services, we will cover topics such as: Learning the Basics of Parent Engagement, Communication, Diversity and Inclusion-Promoting Cultural Competence, Parents and Homework, Increase Parent Participation, Student-Led Conferences, and Volunteer opportunities.

***Parent and Family Engagement Annual Evaluation***

Each year the Cowgill R-VI School District will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers and needs of parents and family members to encourage greater participation in family engagement activities and assist with their child's learning (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its Parent and Family Engagement policies.

The Title I Director, with the assistance and input of parents, will design a parent and family engagement survey. These surveys will be distributed electronically and in hard copy to reach all stakeholders. Additionally, these surveys will also be posted on the district website. In addition to the survey, the District through its input meetings will design strategies for more effective parent involvement.

Cowgill R-VI School District will use the results of the survey and input meetings to recommend strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

***Accessibility***

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district superintendent will ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.