

# Deer Park Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2020-21 School Year

Deer Park Elementary is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if Deer Park Elementary and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor Deer Park Elementary can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Support for their children and for the school is critical to children's success at every step along the way.

Deer Park Elementary recognizes that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach the state's high academic standards. Deer Park Elementary intends to include parents in all aspects of the school's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students to succeed.

## PART I-SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN **REQUIRED** COMPONENTS

- A. Deer Park Elementary will jointly develop/revise with parents the school Parent and Family Engagement policy/procedures and distribute it to parents of participating children and make available the Parent and Family Engagement policy/procedures to the local community.
  - This will be distributed by hard copy at one of our two family conference times, as well as available on our website and referenced in a monthly Title 1 Newsletter. Parents and school administrators will annually review and revise this plan as necessary.
  
- B. Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.
  - Because of CoVid, annual notification will be distributed through parent-family engagement activities. DPE sent notification on March 8<sup>th</sup> through PeachJar and by hard copy in conjunction with its family engagement activity March 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. When schools are allowed to host large gatherings again and invite families in, annual notifications will be in conjunction with Back to School nights and/or family academic engagement nights hosted through the year.
  
- C. Offer flexible meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services related to Parent and Family Engagement.
  - Teachers are available before and after school each day to communicate with families. During both conference sessions we offer an evening option for parents. For our Policy 4130 and Title 1 School-Wide plan review, funds were available for such services related to Parent and Family Engagement, and will be available in the future as we hope to get back to in-person events in the coming year.
  
- D. Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school plan under Section 1112, schoolwide under Section 1114, and the process of the school review and improvement under Section 1116.
  - This work is guided by our parent advisory group as well as the Title 1 parent advisory group that met February 22<sup>nd</sup> to review the school wide plans for DPE and Arcadia.

- E. Provide parents of participating children—
1. Timely information about programs under this part.
  2. A description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
  3. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.
- Timely communication will be made in an authentic manner through regular Title 1 newsletters, hard copies sent by PeachJar or hard copy when appropriate, and through daily availability of administrators, such as the principal or Title 1 Director for such suggestions relating to the education of their students.
- F. If schoolwide program plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the district.
- Advisory group met to review plan on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and suggestions and comments on the program are always solicited through regular Title 1 newsletters, with the school-wide plan available on the website's Title 1 page year round.

## PART II-REQUIRED SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES FOR HIGH STUDENT ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

As a component of the school-level Parent and Family Engagement policy, each school shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part, a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

-Conduct a parent/teacher conference in elementary schools, annually (at a minimum), during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement.

-Provide frequent reports to parents on their child's progress.

-Provide parents with reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class and observation of classroom activities.

- Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand.

Compact is distributed and discussed at fall conferences annually, with progress/report cards coming out twice a year, though with available online platforms and communication tools, progress may be monitored more often. In addition, staff is regularly accessible before and after school to discuss progress, with many using two-way communication tools besides phone and email such as Remind App, Seesaw, or Class Dojo. Parent volunteering will return depending on when CoVid restrictions are removed.

## BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PARENTS AND STAFF – REQUIREMENTS FOR ENGAGEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, **each school and district must:**

- 1) Assist parents in understanding the challenging State academic standards, how to monitor a child's progress, and work with educators.

Twice yearly conferences, Title 1 newsletters, back to school nights, academic nights, and daily communication between staff and families will address this, subject to CoVid protocols and restrictions. (For example, we couldn't hold our normal back-to-school night during fall 2020.)

- 2) Provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy).  
DPSD purchased hundreds of hotspots for internet access, provided computers for students distributed to students for take home use, and provided help with online programs to enrich at home learning during the pandemic.
- 3) Provide professional development to teachers, specialized instructional personnel, and other staff on the value of parent and their communities to increase academic achievement.  
Professional development is provided during two yearly Learning Improvement Days, optional days before the school year starts, and throughout the year through PLC mentoring and individual program training/professional development.
- 4) Coordinate and integrate parent engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parent engagement.  
DPSD uses braided funding models to support local programs and activities.
- 5) Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Teachers and administrators have access to Language Link CTS for communicating with families. Information on translation is sent with important Title 1 communication and at the beginning of the school year for families identified. The information is also on our Title 1 webpage.

**The following are allowable activities:**

- 6) May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
- 7) May provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.
- 8) May pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local Parent and Family Engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions. Title 1 pays for associated expenses related to Family Engagement activities including transportation and childcare costs to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and trainings.
- 9) May train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- 10) May arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize Parent and Family Engagement and participation. See Part I, C
- 11) May adopt and implement model approaches to improving Parent and Family Engagement. DPSD continually looks to improve and streamline its approaches to improving Parent and Family Engagement, including participating in trainings from OSPI and learning from other districts' practices.
- 12) May establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to Parent and Family Engagement in programs supported under this section. DPSD used a parent advisory group to review SWP and district 4130 policy, including providing ideas or feedback in regards to parent and family engagement.
- 13) May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in Parent and Family Engagement activities. DPSD does this with community partners for "We Heart Deer Park" event in conjunction

with back-to-school night open house. The event was modified in fall 2020 due to CoVid pandemic. We also partner with local churches in other ways, for example, sponsorship of our Bite-2-Go program through Second Harvest Food Bank. This program helps families in need by giving kids weekend food supplies.

PART III-ACCESSIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, local educational agencies and schools, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. See Part II, 6

PART IV-ADOPTION – This Deer Park Elementary Parent and Family Engagement plan has been developed/ revised jointly with, and agreed upon with, parents of children participating in Title I program, as evidenced by meeting agenda.

The Parent and Family Engagement plan will be revised by Deer Park Elementary during a spring 2021 parent advisory meeting, in conjunction with program review, and will be used for the following school year. The school will make these plans available by Title 1 webpage and distribute these Parent and Family Engagement plans to all parents of participating Title I children yearly at a parent and family engagement event.

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Signature of Title I Authorized Representative

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Date