



# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

## *Blankenburg Elementary School* **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

*School Year 2024-2025*

*Revision Date:*

**05/30/2024**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Blankenburg Elementary School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

**Blankenburg Elementary School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

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 school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA 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 local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement 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
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

### **DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

### Section A: JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Blankenburg Elementary School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I 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.

*The school will hold a meeting with parents and school representatives in the Winter to review the school plan and budget and Spring to review the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Compact. During these meetings, feedback and review of the documents are done. This year's Spring meeting was held on April 04, 2024.*

### Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Blankenburg Elementary School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

*We will hold an evening Back To School Night in September 2024. During this meeting, the Principal or designee will disseminate the Parent and Family Engagement Plan and School-Parent Compact as well as information about our Title I Program for 2024-25. The following points will also be discussed as part of a powerpoint presentation:*

- The challenging State's academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
- Review curriculum

### Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Blankenburg Elementary School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children with (1) Timely information about the Title I programs, (2) Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, (3) transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement and may use Title I funds and (4) Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

*Phone messages, flyers, monthly calendars, and reminders are sent to parents in a parent-friendly language. We use translations, where applicable, and have the services of two bilingual counseling assistants to help with translations and communication needs of parents speaking languages other than English. We also utilize the services of Pacific Language Interpreters to assist communication in native languages. The following methods are also used for parent communication: Parent meetings throughout the school year at various times during the day and evenings.*

*Classroom Dojo*

*School Messenger*

*School Advisory Council meets with stakeholders once a month*

*Blankenburg's Instagram Page*

*Blankenburg's website*

*'School Options' Meeting for 8th Grade families*

*Report Card Conferences three (3) times a year.*

*Kindergarten Open House for new families held in Spring.*

### Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Blankenburg Elementary School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

*The school will hold a meeting with parents and school representatives in the Winter to review the school plan and budget and Spring to review the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School Compact. During these meetings, feedback and review of the documents are done. This year's Spring meeting was held on April 04, 2024.*

### Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Blankenburg Elementary School will take the following actions to involve the parents of children 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 by:

*During the Winter the school will hold a meeting with parents to review the schoolwide plan and budget for the upcoming school year. School leadership will discuss the full school budget and get parent feedback on school needs and priorities, including spend decisions related to the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement. This year's Winter Title I Parent Meeting was held on February 01, 2024. The funds will be used towards the purchase of an Assistant Program Coordinator who will work with families by holding various workshops and trainings for parents. This position will also help with families who are struggling with attendance by creating and monitoring SAIPs.*

#### **Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

Blankenburg Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family 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 parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

*Blankenburg has a community partnership with our local church that hosts parent meetings and community activities for parents and students, such as the Giving Tree. To ensure that our families have access to food and fresh produce we partner with the Food Share program. Through the support of Chop-Project Rise and IBHF, families are provided resources or are referred to Mental and Behavior Health Services or providers.*

#### **Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

Blankenburg Elementary School will 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:

- Providing 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; and
- 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
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - The challenging State's academic standards
  - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
  - The requirements of Title I, Part A
  - How to monitor their child's progress
  - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

*We will hold an evening Back To School Night in September 2024 and disseminate the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact as well as our Title I Program for 2024-2025. The following points will be discussed at that meeting:*

*The challenging State's academic standards*

*The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments*

*The requirements of Title I, Part A, including the schoolwide plan and parent documents*

*How to monitor their child's progress*

*How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child*

*Curriculum*

*Parent literacy, math, and technology workshops will be held at minimum twice a year to assist parents in working with their children.*

*Regular monthly meetings of a School Advisory Council are held with the Blankenburg stakeholders.*

*Social Emotional Mindfulness Parent Engagement (Ex: Tea Toast)*

#### **Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

Blankenburg Elementary School will 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:

*The Counselor, Assistant Principal, and Assistant Program Coordinator will hold professional development opportunities about building partnerships with parents and caregivers during a PD in the Fall or Winter. Parents survey results will be shared. All staff at Blankenburg will be included. We will discuss ways to communicate with our parents through phone and mail. We will discuss how to establish a correct listing of phone and email addresses, a barrier to parental involvement. Data from Parent Surveys (handed out during parent conferences) will be collected to determine additional topics to review with staff.*

Blankenburg Elementary School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

*Parents and families are encouraged to attend SAC meetings, reach out to school leadership and/or complete a parent survey to provide suggestions for the school or to request support. School Advisory Meetings will be held monthly and will serve as a forum for new ideas and strategies.*

Principal's Signature

**Sheena Wilson**

Date Signed

5/30/24

*Wilson 8.21.24*