****Grass Valley School District

# Title I, Part A LEA-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

**December 2019**

This Parent and Family Engagement Policy (Policy) describes the means for carrying out designated Title I, Part A, parent and family engagement requirements pursuant to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116(a).

**LEA Policy**

The purpose of this Policy is to:

Clearly define GVSD’s practices on parent and family engagement for all non-charter schools and programs.

Parents and family members are involved in the development of this Policy (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][A], and 1116[a][2][F]).

Input is gathered through parent surveys and during the meetings of stakeholder groups. The proposed draft is reviewed with the District English Learner Advisory Committee and site parent advisory committees.

Parents and family members are involved in developing school improvement plans (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][A]).

Input is gathered through parent surveys, English Learner Advisory Committee meetings and is reviewed and approved by the School Site Councils.

GVSD provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within GVSD in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. (ESSA Section1116 [a][2][B]). Further, this includes meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education (ESSA Section 1116 [a][2][B]).

The Director of Family Engagement for GVSD provides needed support for administrators, teachers, and classified staff through professional development activities based on current research. This professional development is offered during staff meetings and collaboration sessions. Additionally, the local Family Resource Center is a source of information to inform the district’s family engagement practices.

GVSD coordinates parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, local laws, and programs (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][C], and 1116[e][4]).

Directors and staff of Title I work collaboratively with English Learner support staff and teachers to find ways to best meet the needs of students given the resources available. Further, special education and mental health staff consult with support staff and general education teachers to identify students in need of intervention.

GVSD conducts, with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy on improving academic quality of all schools served under Title I, Part A, and use the findings to design evidence-based strategies (ESSA sections 1116[a][2][D], and 1116[a][2][E]).

The superintendent of GVSD annually holds a series of District Advisory Committee meetings in which this Policy is reviewed and updated. The District English Advisory Committee also reviews and offers input on the Policy.

The barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by ESSA Section 1116 are the following (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][i]):

One of the primary barriers for our families is access to clear, consistent communication from the district and school sites that is carried out through the most effective means possible and in a format and language comprehensible to all families.

Another barrier is the lack of capacity in staff to systematically learn about and celebrate students’ and families’ funds of knowledge.

A third barrier to greater participation by parents is the need to ensure that are campuses are friendly, welcoming places for students and families.

Further professional development and data collection are needed to ensure that parents and family members who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background have equal access to participation in their children’s education.

The needs of parents and family members so that they may assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers are the following (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][ii]):

Parents and family members need clear pathways for ongoing participation in the academic progress of their children. This would include capacity building for parents in the area of advocacy for their students as well as clear expectations for student learning at each grade level. A partnership between teachers and parents helps parents with strategies for working with their children at home and helps school staff understand the challenges faced by families.

The strategies used to support successful school and family interactions (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][iii]) are the following:

These strategies include:

* The use of technology (email, School Messenger system, texting apps) to provide two-way, ongoing communication between home and school
* Annual Parent-Teacher Conferences
* Student Success Team Meetings that include parents/family members and school staff to facilitate the development of an action plan that supports student success in academics, behavior, social-emotional learning and attendance

GVSD provides coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities. (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][A]):

District coordination of assistance to schools includes regular meetings of the Family Engagement Committee to address site needs and questions, support from the Director of Family Engagement, as well as professional development through attendance at conferences and webinars.

**Allocation of Title I, Part A Funds**

GVSD reserves 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds to carry out parent and family engagement requirements (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][A]).

GVSD reserves one percent of the Title 1, Part A allocation to help support district-wide family engagement activities. Family engagement activities are included in the district’s LCAP Federal Addendum District level staff are also in place to support family engagement.

GVSD allots funds for parent and family engagement (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][B]) in the following ways:

Funds reserved by the district for family engagement activities are used to support the activities and strategies addressed in this policy, *including parental communication, districtwide parent meetings (i.e., DELAC, District Advisory, etc.)*

GVSD distributes 90 percent of the 1 percent reserve to schools (ESSA Section 1116[a][3][C]) in the following way:

GVSD distributes 95% of the 1% reserve to Title 1 participating schools based on a school poverty formula.

**Building Capacity for Involvement**

GVSD provides assistance to parents and families in understanding the state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, Title I, Part A requirements, how to monitor their child’s progress, and how to work with educators to help all students succeed (ESSA Section 1116[e][1]).

GVSD holds a district-wide Family Literacy Night each year that informs parents about Title I requirements and teaches parents ways in which they can monitor their child’s progress in literacy development, choose appropriately leveled books, and use technology to enhance their child’s academic progress.

Additionally, Back to School Night, Parent Conferences and Open House are annual events that offer opportunities for parents and families to learn about the academic expectations of their children and ask for clarification.

Each site in GVSD holds regular Site Council, Parent Teacher Club and English Learner Advisory Committee meetings that allow parents to learn more about the academic programs at the schools. At the district level, the District English Learner Advisory Committee and Dual Immersion Advisory are additional ways for parents to learn about program development and progress.

The superintendent of GVSD annually holds a series of District Advisory Committee meetings in which the California Dashboard data is reviewed and analyzed to set new goals for the coming year.

GVSD provides materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literary training and using technology (ESSA Section 1116[e][2]).

See above.

GVSD educates teachers, instructional support staff, principals, and other school leaders and staff, with the assistance of parents and families, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and families, and reaches out to, communicates with, and works with parents and families as equal partners, implementing and coordinating parent and family programs to build ties between parents and families, and the school (ESSA Section 1116[e][3]).

GVSD provides ongoing professional development to all staff through regular meetings and presentations provided by the Director of Family Engagement. A primary focus of these trainings is to give rationale and strategies for continuing to build close relationships with families.

GVSD coordinates and integrates parent and family involvement programs with other federal, state, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conducts other activities, such as parent and family resource centers that encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children (ESSA Section 1116[e][4]).

The GVSD Family Engagement Committee includes representation from the preschool and afterschool programs, Pupil Services as well as the English Language Learner Manager. This committee and the ELL Director work closely with the Family Resource Center representative to provide families with increased opportunities for participation.

GVSD ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand (ESSA Section 1116[e][5]).

All information sent home to families is in both English in Spanish via the School Messenger system, flyers in the students’ folders and texting apps.

GVSD provides such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section (ESSA Section 1116[e][14]).

Interpretation in Spanish is available for parents at GVSD events.

**Accessibility**

GVSD will ensure that the Parent and Family Engagement Policy is in a format and language that is easy for the parents and families to understand (ESSA Section 1116[f]).

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is available in both English and Spanish. A summary of the plan is also available in both languages.

This Policy was adopted by the (type name of LEA) on (insert date) and will be in effect for the period of (enter time period this Policy is in effect here).

The LEA will distribute this Policy to all parents and families of students participating in the Title I, Part A program on, or before: February 5, 2020.

## Signature Page

Signature box.

**Signature of Authorized Official**

Enter date approved.

**Date**

California Department of Education

July 2018