



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

John H. Taggart Elementary School **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

School Year 2024-25

Revision Date:

5/1/2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, John H. Taggart 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).

John H. Taggart 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

John H. Taggart 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.

On May 1, 2024, a specific parent meeting was held to jointly develop this document and the School Parent Compact. On January 31, 2024, Taggart parents were invited to attend a Title I parent meeting to provide input in the development of the school comprehensive plan and take part in discussions about the upcoming school budget. Throughout the school year, every effort is made to keep parents informed of upcoming events, meetings, and workshops. Reflective and evaluation sheets will be utilized at every meeting so that parents can help us formulate our policies and enable school staff to support parents. We will begin to inform parents of their right to be involved during a parent meeting in the Fall of 2024, and continuously throughout the year during our Report Card Conferences in November, January, and March and during the Annual Title I Winter and Spring Meetings.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

John H. Taggart 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.

The annual Title I Meeting will be held in the Fall of 2024 during Back To School Night. At this time, the principal or designee will share information about the requirements of Title I part A, parent rights to know, state and local assessments including the PSSAs, school curriculum, and how to work with educators and to track student progress. Parents are then given an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

John H. Taggart 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.

A Weekly Folder is sent home every Wednesday with timely and pertinent information. All documents are developed with parents in mind and are sent in an easy to understand format and language. Parents receive monthly newsletters, the first Wednesday of every month from the principal and special flyers or notices on an as-needed basis. Robo calls are made frequently to keep parents informed. Parents will attend School Advisory Council meetings held on the last Thursday of Every month. At these meetings, staff members, school personnel, community, business, and university partners are scheduled to make presentations. In this manner parents are informed of important resources within the community.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

John H. Taggart 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.

During the Annual Spring Title I meeting, parents were invited to review and provide feedback to update the School-Parent Compact and the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This year's meeting was held on May 1, 2024.

The Family and Parent Engagement Policy and the School Compact will be reviewed and discussed throughout the school year during monthly SAC meetings. Both the policy and compact will be distributed in the Fall and additional copies will be available in the main office.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, John H. Taggart 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 annual Title I Winter Parent Meeting, parents learn about the schoolwide plan and school budget and the 1% set-aside for parent involvement. In addition, to ensure that parent voices are heard in the school improvement process, budget planning and use of Title I funds, the principal reviews all pertinent information with the Home & School Executive Board. Discusses options available and readily accepts suggestions from parents prior to making decisions. This year's meeting was held on January 31, 2024.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

John H. Taggart 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:

A Parent Resource Room will be offered for parents at Taggart School. A Parent Volunteer or Taggart Staff member will operate this Resource Room. The Volunteers will assist in answering and directing phone calls, distributing school information to visiting parents, and as a resource to further develop community involvement. Events will be held throughout the school year to explain and train parents on academic issues such as preparing for the PSSA assessments. Inform parents and community members via school website about available programs and services through the Office of Specialized Services and the Office of Family and Community Engagement. Provide information to preschool programs about registration, Kindergarten Open House, and school-community events.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

John H. Taggart 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

During Back To School Night scheduled for the Fall, the Principal will provide information about the state's academic standards and the state and local assessments. In addition, the principal will discuss how to monitor student progress and how to work with teachers to ensure academic success for all students. Tentative dates for upcoming parent workshops will be announced.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

John H. Taggart 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:

During Fall Grade Group Meetings and a Fall Teacher Professional Development Day, teachers will receive school level training on parent engagement strategies in how to communicate better with parents. In-house support staff such as our BCAs will provide teacher support in effectively communicating with parents. It will include online district training resources developed with parent input and parent surveys.

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

*Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training during scheduled SAC meetings, in-school professional development, and parent workshops.
Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents during parent workshops.
Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.*

Principal's Signature

Stephanie McKenna

Date Signed

5-23-24

SM
8-28-24