

Edward Gideon Elementary School
Parent and Family Engagement Policy

School Year 2020-2021

Revision Date: May 12, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Edward Gideon 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).

The Edward Gideon 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 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

Edward Gideon 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.

Parents are involved in the development of this policy by attending SAC/Spring Title I Parental Input Meetings. Parents were invited to take part via a calendar reminder and a flyer, as well as by verbal invitations. During the meeting, held this year on May 12, 2020, parents were given the opportunity to provide input and suggestions related to the parent and family engagement programs as well as the development of the parent and family engagement policy and school parent compact.

Section B: ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Edward Gideon 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 to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved is held during Back to School Night, which is scheduled for September 2020. This meeting will provide parents with information about the requirements of Title I part A, parent rights to know, state content standards and academic assessments, how to track student progress and to work with educators.

Section C: COMMUNICATIONS

Edward Gideon 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.

- For students in grades K through 8, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be included in a pre-printed folder and distributed to all parents at the beginning of the school year. The folder will be used to share communications about upcoming parent meetings and events with parents.
- SAC Meetings are held monthly, with meetings varying in times (8:45 during school hours, 3:09 after school hours). Family Night events and Back to School Night are held in the evening. Winter and Spring Title I Parental Input meetings are held in the mornings at 8:45 to maximize parental involvement.
- Monthly Calendars and flyers are created and sent home to parents to inform them of upcoming school events including but not limited to Back to School Night, Report Card Conferences, Parent Workshops, Family Night, in three languages
- All communication is sent home to families in parent-friendly language and translations into multiple languages is available through the district's Family and Community Engagement Office, upon request.

Section D: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Edward Gideon 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 a monthly SAC (School Advisory Council) meeting in April, parents, administrators, and teachers will meet to jointly develop the school-parent compact. This year, the parent input meeting took place on May 12, 2020.
- Parents will provide input for the compact by sharing ideas on how the school staff, parents, and students will build positive partnerships and help students to achieve academic standards.

Section E: RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Edward Gideon 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 Title I meeting, parents participate in a budget meeting and participate in the decision making process regarding how to spend Title I funds reserved for parent and family engagement. The last such meeting took place on January 17, 2020.

Section F: COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Edward Gideon 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 table is available on the first floor in the main lobby to provide parents with an area to locate information and to provide parents with an opportunity to learn more about family engagement programs and activities.
- Kindergarten Open House is held in the Spring, during which time prospective kindergarten parents can visit the school and meet the teachers and staff. During the same week, prospective parents are invited to visit the school and observe the kindergarten classes.
- “First Mondays” are monthly informational sessions that provide resources from community partners as well as workshops for parents and families.

Section G: BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Edward Gideon 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:

1. 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
2. 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
3. Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - a) The challenging State’s academic standards
 - b) The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - c) The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - d) How to monitor their child’s progress

- e) How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
- The Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved is held during Back to School Night. This meeting will provide parents with information about the requirements of Title I part A, parent rights to know, state content standards and academic assessments, how to track student progress and to work with educators as well as information about the school's curriculum.
 - Monthly parent workshops are held to provide information about Gideon's literacy and math programs, and how they align with the PA Common Core State Standards. One workshop is dedicated to providing information to the parents about the PSSA, the state assessments. All workshops are geared to providing parents with an overview of the programs Edward Gideon Elementary School uses as well as providing materials to parents to implement what they learned at home. At MTSS and IEP meetings parents are shown strategies and given materials to work with their child at home.
 - Parents are invited to learn about the academic progress and achievement of their child. Report Card Conferences will be held on the following dates: November 18–20, 2020; February 3–5, 2021; April 14–16, 2020. Interim reports will be printed and sent home to parents to inform parents of the academic progress of the students. Interim Reports are available on the following dates: October 6–8, 2020; December 15–17, 2020; March 2–4, 2021; May 4–6, 2021.

Section H: BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Edward Gideon 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:

- School staff will participate in a Professional Development session titled: Working with Parents as Equal Partners. This PD session will take place in Fall/Winter 2020-21.
- Results of the Title I Parent Survey will be shared with staff to inform staff of how the parents responded to the various questions.

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

- During monthly SAC meetings, parents may make recommendations regarding parent and family engagement activities. School staff will work in conjunction with the parents to plan and hold the engagement activity as decided upon by the SAC team members.

Shauneille Taylor

September 9, 2020

Principal Signature

Date