



Revised Sept. 2024

**Wilkes-Barre Area School District
Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2024-2025**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Wilkes-Barre Area School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore is required under 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) states that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the District's Plan (Consolidated Application), and distributed to parents of participating children in a format and language that parents can understand. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

General Expectations

- 1. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Plan (Title I Application) (ESSA, Section 1116 (a) (2) (A)).**
 - a. An annual fall meeting will be held for parents and family members to explain our Title I program and inform parents about programming, an explanation of the curriculum, and the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress and achievement.**
 - b. An annual spring meeting will be held for parents and family members to learn and provide input in the Title I Plan, seek input on perceived needs for parent/family education, and review the School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the School/Parent/Student Compact.**
- 2. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will involve parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement (ESSA, Section 1116 (a) (2) (A)).**
 - a. Meetings will be held for parents and family members in regards to the process of school review and improvement.**
 - b. Share, review, and involve parents in the development of the WBASD comprehensive plan.**
 - c. Opportunities throughout the year will be provided by surveys and google forms to provide input and feedback.**
- 3. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will provide technical assistance and support to the Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance (ESSA, Section 1116 (a) (2) (B)).**
 - a. The Federal Programs Director will provide guidance and support on appropriate use of parent involvement funds and review school Parental Involvement Policies, Schoolwide Plans, and School/Parent/Student Compacts to ensure compliance.**

- 4. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other Federal, State, and local laws and programs (ESSA, Section 1116 (a) (2) (B)).**
 - a. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will coordinate with Head Start to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students from their programs to the Title I schools by working collaboratively with the outside agencies.**
 - b. Other outside organizations we partner with are United way of Wyoming Valley, CEO, Children's Service Center, UGI-RIF, Fork Over the Love, Dinner for Kids, The Nutrition Group Inc, and Children and Youth.**
- 5. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the parent and family policy in improving the academic quality of all Title I schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy skills, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background. The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions (ESSA Section 1116 (a) (2) (D) (i-iii)).**
- 6. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Policy (ESSA Section 1116 (a) (2) (E)).**
 - a. Parents are surveyed annually, at the spring meeting, to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent and family engagement programs. The results of the surveys are used to develop strategies for school improvement and to revise the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies. These results are also used in planning future parent workshops and meetings.**
- 7. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will involve parents and family members in the activities of the Title I schools, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members to adequately represent the needs of the population; revising; and reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA Section 1116 (a) (2) (F)).**
 - a. Parents will be invited to review and revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy at the annual spring meeting.**

Use of Funds

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will involve parents and family members in decisions about how the one percent set aside of Title I, Part A funds will be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the District's parent and family engagement policy. Parents will have the opportunity to provide feedback on the one percent set aside of funds by surveying parents on the use of funds. During the Annual Title I meeting, the budget for parent and family engagement activities will be shared. These activities and strategies will include disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.

Requirements 1 thru 4:

The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will provide professional development to its teachers, paraprofessionals, personnel, principals and other school leaders in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners by providing SPAC training twice a year; scheduling parent/teacher conferences fall and spring, day and evening hours available; making phone calls home; use of Google Classroom/Google Meet sessions; monthly Title I Parent Newsletter; Title I Parent Resource Center materials available (including social emotional learning materials); meeting by appointment at parent request; family events, day and evening; encouraging parents to serve as volunteers, as appropriate; and providing literature and professional development opportunities addressing parent and family engagement.(ESSA Section 1116 (3) (D) (i) (ii) (iii) (iv).

Requirement 5:

In addition, this will include engaging in other activities and strategies that the Wilkes-Barre Area School District determines are appropriate and consistent with the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA Section 1116 (a) (2) (D) (v).

- a. The Wilkes-Barre Area School District will provide assistance to parents in understanding the following topics: The Pennsylvania Academic Standards; the State and local academic assessments; the requirements of Title I, Part A; and how to monitor their child's progress.**

Adoption

This LEA's Parental and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children attending the Title I schools in the Wilkes-Barre Area School District, as evidenced by this document and the sign-in sheet.

This policy was adopted by the Wilkes-Barre Area School District on _____ and will be in effect for the period of the 2024-25 school year. The District will distribute this policy to all parents/guardians of children attending our schools on or before September 30, 2024 by placing it in the Welcome Packet and posting on the school district website.

Signature of Authorized Official

Date