

Spending Title I Family Engagement Funds

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN TITLE I AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

There is a clear correlation between family engagement and student performance, and Congress has sought to capitalize on this relationship by expanding the role of parents in Title I programs. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the most recent reauthorization of the

Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), defines family engagement as parent participation in **regular, two-way, meaningful communication** involving student academic learning and other school activities, to ensure that:

- Parents understand that they play an integral role in their child's learning,
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved at school, and
- Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included in decision-making and on advisory committees.

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS

Each campus that receives Title I funds is required to:

- Hold at least one Title I parent meeting each year.
- With parent input, develop a Family Engagement Policy and share the policy with families.
- With parent input, create a Parent Compact (one per campus or one per grade level) that each student, parent, and teacher signs to demonstrate that they understand and agree to campus expectations.
- Set SMART goals for family engagement and strategies for meeting these goals in the Campus Improvement Plan.
- Keep documentation of parent involvement (sign-in sheets from meetings, events, and parent-teacher conferences; meeting flyers and agendas; policies and compacts).

Quick Guide to Title I

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

In Fort Worth ISD, each Title I school receives family engagement funds based on the number of students enrolled and the percentage of students who qualify to receive free or reduced-price meals. The district allocates family engagement funds in the following budget account:

211-61-6399-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10

Each year, the principal reviews the campus's family engagement allocation with the Site-Based Decision-Making (SBDM) team and decides how to spend the funds to build family capacity according to the Family Engagement Policy goals and the Campus Improvement Plan.

**LOC stands for the three-digit campus number.*

WAYS TO BUILD FAMILY CAPACITY

Provide translation. You want parents to read the flyers that you send home, and you want them to feel welcome at the events you plan. Communicating with parents in a language they understand is a federal requirement.

Build a family literacy program. Start a book club. Encourage parents to take advantage of free resources at the public library. If the demand is high, use Title I funds to bus parents there.

Host a reading workshop. Invite teachers to discuss how parents can reinforce classroom instructional practices at home. Model best practices.

Empower parents with information. Help them decode campus performance measures, state academic standards, local and state assessment results, and ESSA family engagement requirements.

Give parents access. Show them where to find and how to use the following resources:

- FWISD Parent Portal
- FWISD App
- Campus Report Cards
- Campus Improvement Plan
- Texas Academic Performance Reports
- STAAR scores on the Texas Assessment Data Portal
- FWISD Social Media

Help parents monitor progress. Show them how to review their child's data and set SMART goals.

Actively solicit parent input. Create an annual parent survey. Invite parents to participate in the PTA or the SBDM team.

Quick Guide to Title I

PURPOSEFUL SPENDING

Provide books for summer reading.

Invest in technology. Conduct a survey to determine whether families lack access to technology and find out their knowledge level. Consider these questions:

1. Does your Comprehensive Needs Assessment indicate whether families have access to computers and understand how to use them?
2. Do parents have access to a computer and the Internet? Do they have technological expertise? Provide a Technology 101 class for parents.

Pay teachers extra duty. Teachers can get paid to conduct classes for parents after school. Topics could include:

- **Early literacy and math**
 - » How to read with students
 - » How to help students solve math problems
 - » How to help students with their homework
- **Health and wellness**
- **Importance of routines**
- **Transitions**
 - » What to expect when a child enters kindergarten, middle school, or high school

- **College and career readiness**

- » Schools of Choice Programs
- » Career pathways
- » FAFSA

- **District resources**

- » FWISD Parent Portal
- » FWISD App
- » FWISD Social media

- **Classes for adults**

- » Basic computer skills
- » GED test preparation
- » English
- » Spanish
- » Household budgets
- » Exercise, health and wellness

Pay transportation costs and childcare expenses for families to attend campus events.

Contract with local museums to come to your campus.

Pay for training for liaisons, specialists, and parents.

Purchase healthy refreshments for parent events.

Purchase supplies for parent meetings.

Family Engagement Budget Accounts

All Title I campuses have an account for general supplies for family engagement. Most of the accounts below are created upon request. If your campus needs one or more of the following accounts, please contact your assigned project development specialist.

Extra Duty Pay for Teachers and Other Professional Staff to Lead Parent Classes	211-61-6116-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Extra Duty Pay/Overtime for Support Personnel to Help with Parent Classes	211-61-6121-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Contracted Services (e.g., Science/Museum Night)	211-61-6299-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Books for Parents (parenting, child development, book studies, summer reading)	211-61-6329-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Technology for Parents to Use on Campus (student registration, Parent Portal, FAFSA, GED classes)	211-61-6396-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
General Supplies and Materials	211-61-6399-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Professional Development on Family Engagement	211-61-6411-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Transportation for Families	211-61-6419-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10
Healthy Refreshments for Family Events	211-61-6499-04L-LOC-30-510-000000-22F10

*LOC stands for the campus number. If using the actual budget account for your campus, you would need to type in your three-digit campus number instead of LOC.