



Building Opportunities

Northern Tioga School District's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy

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Following Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Northern Tioga School District recognizes the importance of meaningful parent and family engagement as a foundation for academic achievement and school success. The district is committed to building strong partnerships between schools and families through ongoing communication, collaboration, and shared responsibility.

Parent and Family Engagement in the Title I Plan and Consolidated Application

Northern Tioga School District ensures that parents and families are actively involved in the development of its Title I Plan, submitted as part of the Consolidated Application, through annual Title I meetings held twice yearly at each Title I school to review the program and solicit feedback; parent-teacher conferences that promote collaborative problem-solving and individualized student support; parent and family surveys to gather broad input and guide decisions at the school and district levels; website postings of plans and engagement policies to encourage transparency and open communication; and public board meetings where Title I plans are reviewed and adopted, offering a venue for public input and community involvement.

Parent and Family Engagement in School Review and Improvement

Northern Tioga School District involves parents and families in the review and continuous improvement of schools by hosting stakeholder meetings that include parents in discussions around student performance, school needs, and improvement goals; utilizing survey feedback to revise school plans and inform professional development priorities; including family representatives on schoolwide planning teams when appropriate; and sharing how parent input influences decisions, fostering trust and transparency.

Providing Technical Assistance to Schools

To support schools in implementing effective parent and family engagement, Northern Tioga School District provides technical assistance through a dedicated technology department that supports digital communication, parent access to student progress, and engagement tools; implementation of Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) with a focus on academic and behavioral interventions involving family collaboration; weekly data team meetings to monitor student progress and guide family outreach tied to specific needs; regular collaboration with Title I teachers to align classroom instruction, intervention, and family engagement practices; and data-informed decision-making to tailor engagement activities and resources that support academic achievement.

Coordination with Other Federal, State, and Local Laws and Programs

Northern Tioga School District integrates parent and family engagement strategies with other federal, state, and local programs to maximize impact and consistency. This coordination includes aligning Title I efforts with Title II (professional development) and Title IV (student support and academic enrichment) to promote family engagement in wellness, technology, and school safety initiatives; collaborating with local agencies and service providers to support family access to health, counseling, and social services; ensuring all engagement efforts meet requirements under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, and state-level parent notification laws; and engaging with community partners and local organizations to offer family workshops, information sessions, and support resources. This integrated approach ensures families receive coordinated and comprehensive support across all levels of the educational system.

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Northern Tioga School District conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy to determine its impact on improving the academic quality of all schools and to guide future improvements. This evaluation is conducted with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members through parent and family surveys distributed each year to gather input on engagement practices, communication effectiveness, school climate, and family needs; stakeholder input meetings that provide a forum for families to discuss the impact of engagement strategies, suggest changes, and identify unmet needs; review of participation data from events, communications, and meetings to identify levels of engagement and any gaps related to equity and access; and monitoring ParentSquare analytics to assess the reach and effectiveness of communications with families and to identify barriers or underrepresented groups.

Particular attention is given to identifying and addressing barriers that may prevent participation by economically disadvantaged families (who make up over 60% of the district), parents and guardians who are disabled, families with limited English proficiency or limited literacy, and parents and family members of racial or ethnic minority backgrounds. Through these efforts, Northern Tioga identifies barriers to participation across different subgroups, the needs of families in supporting their children's learning, and strategies that promote successful school-family interaction.

As a result of past evaluations, Northern Tioga has implemented ParentSquare districtwide, a powerful communication platform that enables accessible, multilingual messaging and increased family engagement; improved the district website to ensure WCAG and ADA compliance, making information more accessible to all families, including those with disabilities or limited technology experience; and enhanced professional development for school staff on family engagement strategies and culturally responsive communication. Feedback from the evaluation process is used to revise this policy and improve Title I program design annually. The updated policy is reviewed with stakeholders and adopted at a public board meeting.

Using Evaluation Findings to Design Evidence-Based Strategies

Northern Tioga School District is committed to using the findings from the annual evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to inform the development of evidence-based strategies that strengthen family involvement and enhance student outcomes. Following the annual evaluation, the district analyzes survey results, participation trends, and stakeholder input to identify strengths and areas for improvement in current engagement practices; disaggregates data to ensure strategies address the needs of underserved families, including those who are economically disadvantaged, have disabilities, limited English proficiency, low literacy, or are members of minority groups; and collaborates with school-based teams, Title I staff, and district leadership to interpret findings and prioritize action steps that are practical, inclusive, and aligned with district goals.

Based on these findings, Northern Tioga designs and implements evidence-based strategies, including leveraging the district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) to guide differentiated family engagement strategies that correspond to student academic and behavioral needs; integrating Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) to promote a shared understanding of expectations, increase home-school consistency, and involve families in recognizing and reinforcing student success; partnering with the Intermediate Unit (IU17) and PaTTAN to access professional development and coaching on inclusive family engagement strategies and accessibility supports; and continuing to improve communication platforms such as ParentSquare and maintaining the ADA- and WCAG-compliant website to reduce barriers and improve access to key information.

If the evaluation identifies gaps or weaknesses in current practices, Northern Tioga will revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy accordingly. Revisions are reviewed with stakeholders, integrated into Title I planning, and approved by the Board of Education at a public meeting. This process ensures the district's family engagement approach remains dynamic, data-informed, and equity-focused.

Involving Parents and Family Members in School Activities and Policy Review

Northern Tioga School District is committed to involving parents and family members in the life of each school and in the ongoing review and improvement of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, in alignment with Section 1116(a)(2)(F) of ESSA. Although the district does not currently maintain an official Parent Advisory Council (PAC), it takes parent and community input very seriously and actively seeks their involvement in school improvement, policy review, and program evaluation.

The district encourages parent participation in Title I meetings, school-based events, stakeholder meetings, and surveys, all of which contribute valuable insights to decision-making processes. Families are provided with opportunities to review and revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy through regular input sessions and digital feedback options. Family members are involved in district-wide planning efforts by being invited to serve on committees, attend informational forums, and contribute to policy discussions. The district ensures that a representative cross-section of parents and guardians, including those from economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, and minority backgrounds, are included in feedback and planning opportunities whenever possible. Through these practices, Northern Tioga ensures that family voices are central to shaping school priorities, improving academic outcomes, and fostering a welcoming and inclusive environment for all.

Use of Funds for Parent and Family Engagement Activities

(Required for LEAs receiving \$500,000 or more in Title I funds — ESSA Section 1116(3)(D))

Northern Tioga School District receives over \$500,000 in Title I funds and utilizes the required set-aside for parent and family engagement to support evidence-based practices and meaningful interactions that foster stronger family-school partnerships—particularly among economically disadvantaged families.

The district carries out the following strategies in alignment with ESSA:

Northern Tioga sends home books and reading materials with students and hosts family reading events to model and share best practices that families can use at home to support literacy and learning. These events are designed to increase comfort, confidence, and involvement among parents and caregivers, especially those who may face socioeconomic challenges.

The district provides family engagement events that offer interactive, hands-on opportunities for parents to connect with their children and schools in supportive, collaborative ways. These activities align with academic priorities while promoting positive and inclusive experiences for families.

These efforts are guided by the goals of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and supported by feedback from surveys, stakeholder meetings, and the annual policy evaluation. Activities are selected based on need, participation data, and parent suggestions to ensure the greatest benefit to families across the district.



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