

2025-2026

Ambridge Area School District

Title I Local Education Agency Parent and Family Engagement Policy

All Local Education Agencies (LEA) receiving Title I funds are required under Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) to develop a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the LEA. The ESSA states that the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy must be jointly developed with parents and family members, incorporated into the LEA 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.

The policy states how the LEA involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I Plan (Title I Application) (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)).

How does your LEA involve parents and family members in the development of the Consolidated Application?

Ambridge Area School District involves parents and family members in the development of our programming and grants through stakeholder meetings and committees. For example, our Parent Teacher Organizations at each school level and stakeholder meetings to gather feedback on the needs and priorities of the school district. We survey parents and community members to gather feedback on where federal funds should be allocated and the best way to utilize these funds to meet the needs of our student body. The school district makes sure that they communicate the purpose and goals of federal funding and share this information in multiple languages and accessible formats that will allow everyone to participate and feel included.

The policy states how the LEA involves parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(A)).

How does your LEA involve parents and family members in school review and improvement?

Ambridge Area School District utilizes surveys and focus groups to gather information and feedback on how we can best implement school improvement. Stakeholders also have multiple opportunities at each of the buildings to participate in activities such as Title I nights and Spooktacular to learn the school improvement review and process in a fun and educational way.

The policy states how the LEA provides technical assistance and support to 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)).

How does your LEA provide technical assistance to schools?

Ambridge Area School District utilizes professional development opportunities through staff meetings, data meetings, and professional development days to help staff learn best practices for communication and engagement with parents and family. Ambridge Area School District provides resources for parents to help them stay active in school wide activities and provide additional resources at home. For example, we offer reading resources, materials, and books at our fall family Title I nights to help support parents working with their children at home. Ambridge also provides activities at various times and locations throughout the year to help accommodate family schedules and transportation needs.

The policy states how the LEA will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with other federal, State, and local laws and programs (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(C)).

How does your LEA coordinate with other federal, State and local laws and programs?

Ambridge Area School District coordinates and partners with local groups and grants including but not limited to Center for Hope, Parents as Allies, and Kidsburgh organizations.

The policy states how the LEA conducts, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools, including identifying - barriers to greater participation by parents and family members, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background; - 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).

How does your LEA evaluate the effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy?

Ambridge Area School District evaluates the effectiveness of our parent and family engagement policy every year through a comprehensive process that gathers input from everyone including diverse and underrepresented groups in our community. This is done through annual surveys that are translated into multiple languages and distributed in multiple ways including emails and “Bridger Blasts” to be accessible to all families. We have established parent advisory groups that help provide recommendations and feedback for engagement strategies. We also review the results of family and community participation rates when it comes to Title I events, school events, and parent-teacher conferences. This allows us to review and assess trends in our programming.

The policy states how the LEA will use the findings of the annual evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family involvement, and revise, if necessary, the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(E)).

Once the evaluation is complete, how will your LEA use the findings to design evidence-based strategies?

Ambridge Area School District will use the findings to design evidence-based strategies that are driven by data. Data that is used to design these strategies include survey results, focus groups, stakeholder recommendations, and participation data when looking at stakeholders including but not limited to parents, students, guardians, and staff members that attend community events.

The policy states how the LEA involves parents and family members in the activities of the school, 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 to the population; revising; and reviewing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA, Section 1116(a)(2)(F)).

Are there any additional ways the LEA involves parents and family members, like a Parent Advisory Council (PAC)?

The school district does have building-based parent teacher organizations.

Use of Funds Please note: this section only needs to be included in the policy of the LEA receives \$500,00 and more. For all other LEAs this section can be deleted.

For those LEAs that receive \$500,000 and more in Title I funds, please choose one of the following and describe how it is carried out at the LEA.

Collaborating, or providing schools with subgrants to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations to improve parent and family engagement.

Ambridge Area School District coordinates and partners with local groups and grants including but not limited to Center for Hope, Parents as Allies, and Kidsburgh organizations.

If the LEA reserves \$500,000 or more and are required to set aside 1%, funds shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the LEA's parent and family engagement policy, including not less than one of the following: Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for LEA and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(i)). Supporting programs that reach parents and family members

at home, in the community, and at school. (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(ii)). 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 (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(iii)). Collaborating, or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate with, community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(iv)). Engaging in any other activities and strategies that the LEA determines are appropriate and consistent with the LEA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (ESSA, Section 1116(3)(D)(v)).