

English Learners and ESSA Parent, Family and Community Engagement Requirements

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Agenda

- Terminology Changes
- ESSA Parent and Family Engagement
- Title I Parent and Family Engagement
- Title III Parent and Family Engagement



Terminology Changes

Greater focus on engaging parents and families



Parent
Involvement

The ESEA as amended by NCLB terminology related to encouraging parents to get involved in the education of their children.



Parent and
Family
Engagement

The reauthorization by ESSA changed and expanded this terminology to include families. Title I, Section 1116 is where the bulk of PFE requirements are found.



Regular
Meetings
Required

After the passage of ESSA, the USED emphasized that the ESSA requirement of regular parent meetings means more than a single annual meeting.



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From Parent Involvement to Parent and Family Engagement

- Under NCLB Title I funded LEAs (or districts) and schools were required to develop a Parent Involvement Policy (district requirement NCLB 1118(a)(2); school requirement NCLB 1118(b)).
- ESSA changed this to Parent and Family Engagement Policies (district requirement ESSA 1116(a)(2); school requirement ESSA 1116(b)).
- NOTE: These are not official school or school board policies that require adoption by a board or through some other process. While this is allowable, it is also allowable to treat these as ‘plans’ for the purpose of implementing ESSA PFE requirements.



School-Parent Compact Changes

The School-Parent Compact is a required component of a Title I school's Parental Involvement Policy under NCLB Section 1118(d)(2) and is still a required component of a school's PFE Policy under ESSA Section 1116(d)(2).

NCLB required that at least three pieces of information be included in a School-Parent Compact.

Those pieces of information are:

- The compact is discussed at least annually in Parent-teacher conferences at the elementary school level
- Frequent reports to parents
- Reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer & observe classroom activities

ESSA retains these three and includes one additional requirement:

- Ensuring regular two-way, meaningful communication between family members and school staff to the extent practicable in a language family members can understand



Parent and Family Engagement - Reporting Report Cards

- School and district report cards, which must be made available to parents, include the reporting of a significant amount of information, often disaggregated by each student subgroup.
- ESSA added a significant amount of new data that must be included on report cards.
- One of the new items is “The number and percent of ELs attaining English proficiency.”

Title I EL Parent and Family Engagement

- The letter to parents of English learners, which was required in NCLB Title III, Section 3302, is now found in ESSA Title I, Section 1112(e)(3)(A).
- The information required to be provided to parents in this section is significant, taking up a full page of the statute, and includes eight points and three subpoints of information to provide to parents.

Title I Outreach to Parents of ELs

- ESSA also moved the requirements for outreach to the parents of ELs from Title III to ESSA Title I, Section 1112(e)(3)(C) Parental Participation.
- The first section, 1112(e)(3)(C)(i), outlines requirements for “local education agencies” (LEAs) to “implement an effective means of outreach to parents of English learners to inform the parents” about how to get involved in their child’s education.

Outreach to Parents of ELs Information to Share

- Title I, Section, 1112(e)(3)(C)(i) says LEAs must inform parents how they can:
 - (I) be involved in the education of their children: and
 - (II) be active participants in assisting their children to—
 - (aa) attain English proficiency;
 - (bb) achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education; and
 - (cc) meet the challenging State academic standards expected of all students



Title I, Required LEA Meetings with Parents of ELs

- The second section, Title I, Section 1112(e)(3)(C)(ii) states that the outreach to parents of ELs described in Title I, Section 1112(e)(3)(C)(i) must include “holding, and sending notice of opportunities for, regular meetings for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations” from parents of ELs.
- The title for this section in NCLB was “Receipt of Recommendations” but was changed to “Regular Meetings” in ESSA.



Title III Additions to Parent and Family Engagement

- The addition of family engagement requirements appear throughout ESSA, and Title III is no exception. But there is one expansion in Title III that has enormous significance.
- ESSA added the requirement for Title III funds to be used to pay for parent, family, and community engagement.
- This is the first time and the only place in the law where ESSA requires that programmatic funds be spent on community engagement (Title III, Section 3115(c)).



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