

**Southside Elementary**  
**Parent and Family Engagement Policy**  
Legal Requirement of Title I, Part A

**PURPOSE**

Parents serve as a key shareholder in the educational processes of the students attending Southside Elementary. The Parent and Family Engagement Policy of Southside Elementary ensures equitable participation in the planning, reviewing, and implementing of all parent programs and activities.

**PARENT DEFINITION**

A parent is legally defined as a *biological parent, step-parent, or a foster parent of a student or a person who has legal custody of a student pursuant to a court order* **and** *with whom the student resides*. For the purpose of this policy, parent encompasses all family situations.

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT DEFINITION**

Parent involvement is best defined as *any time a parent commits to assisting his/her child in learning and achieving academically to a higher level with greater interest and motivation*.

Parent involvement can be accomplished in a variety of ways, which include the following:

- reading together at home with your children, reinforcing Lexia through goal setting
- developing your expectations for your child and communicating these expectations to your child, as well as communicating your support in helping your child achieve these expectations,
- communicating positive values such as Smart, Strong, and Selfless
- providing your child with positive encouragement when he/she achieves certain goals,
- speaking with your child's teacher on a regular basis and offering any assistance that the teacher may suggest,
- becoming involved in the school's PTO or Advisory Committee and/or committees, and
- discussing your child's assessment scores after receiving the scores and an explanation of them from the school.

**PROCEDURES**

Southside Elementary, along with the district Federal Programs' Coordinator, shall convene an annual meeting at a time that is convenient for parents. All parents are invited and encouraged to attend. At this meeting, parents will be informed of the school's participation in a Title I Schoolwide Program, the purpose and requirements of Title I, and their right to be involved. Particular attention shall be given to reaching those parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.

Southside Elementary shall engage parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the Title I planning, review, and improvement of programs; this includes the joint development of the school parent and family engagement policy.

### **SCHOOL-FAMILY COMPACT**

Southside Elementary and the parents of the students participating in the activities, services, and programs agree that improved student achievement is a shared responsibility. Southside Elementary and its parents will build and develop a partnership that will assist students in achieving proficiency.

#### **Southside Elementary will...**

- provide high quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the participating students to meet Kentucky's student academic achievement standards,
- communicate clear expectations,
- utilize research-based materials and methods,
- provide a safe, positive, and healthy learning environment for each student, and
- address the individual needs of each student.

#### **Parents will...**

- ensure their child attends school regularly, is punctual, and prepared to learn whether that is in person or virtually,
- create an atmosphere that supports learning,
- encourage their child to demonstrate respect for school personnel, classmates, and school property,
- remain informed about their child's education,
- model respect by going to the teacher first regarding concerns, and
- guarantee that any homework assignments are neat and complete.

#### **Students will...**

- be prepared to learn whether that is in person or virtually,
- obey all school and classroom rules,
- pay attention to their teachers, tutors, and family members and ask for help when needed, and
- commit to learning and do their best work each day.

### **BACKGROUND CHECKS**

Any parent wishing to serve as a parent volunteer in the school must complete a criminal background check and attend confidentiality training.

**CONCERNS** Any comments or concerns regarding Southside Elementary's Parent and Family Engagement Policy shall be submitted to the Shelby County Public Schools' Federal Programs' Coordinator, Mrs. Rebecca Martin. She can be reached at (502) 633-2375.

**POLICY EVALUATION** The effectiveness of this policy shall be evaluated through the school improvement planning process.

Date Adopted: 9-14-2020

Date Reviewed/Revised: 9-14-2020

Date Reviewed/Revised: 12/2/2020