

Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Toni Morrison Elementary
School Year 2022-23
Revision Date: August 16, 2022

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Toni Morrison Elementary School (“Toni Morrison”) receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school’s expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school’s plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Toni Morrison agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
- (C) families are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
- (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Toni Morrison will take the following actions to involve families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by families, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

All parents are invited to participate in the development of the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the design of family engagement programs. Parents are welcome to serve on the Building Leadership Team (School-Wide Planning Committee) to provide feedback. Parents can also provide input using the Federal Programs Parent Feedback Form, which is available during family events and on the website.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Toni Morrison will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families’ requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Annual Title I Meeting will be held during the Open House. If parents are not able to attend, the presentation will be available on the website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Toni Morrison will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is distributed during the Annual Title I Meeting and is also available on the website. Information about family events and activities is provided via the website, robocalls and flyers sent home with students. Information is provided in both English and Spanish.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Toni Morrison Elementary will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

The School-Parent Compact or Parent Promise was jointly developed with school and parent representatives who served on the Lorain City Schools Parent Council. The document is sent home with all scholars at the beginning of the school year and is also available on the website.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Toni Morrison Elementary will take the following actions to involve the families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

Toni Morrison uses Title I funds to support parent and family engagement in the following ways: daily student planners that support home/school communication of assignments and for the purchase of materials to support family literacy programs. Parents can provide input into the use of these funds by completing the Federal Programs Parent Feedback Form provided at family events and available on the website. The budget template is available on the website.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Toni Morrison will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Toni Morrison partners with a number of community agencies to provide services to families including Mercy Health and the Boys and Girls Club. We also provide preschool in collaboration with Head Start.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Toni Morrison will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

In collaboration with families, a teacher serving as the Family Engagement Coordinator will engage school staff to build their capacity to work with families as equal partners. Specifically, the Family Engagement Coordinator will engage families and school staff to jointly develop family programs to strengthen connections between school and home.

Toni Morrison will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

- Selecting representatives to serve on the Parent Advisory Council (Titan FAM).
- Collaborating with the Community/Business/Schools partnership organization to establish roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.
- Maximizing parent and family engagement and participation in their child’s education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and families who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Provide necessary literacy training for families to assist parents with supporting the academic success of their children.

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

The school parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its families, chooses to undertake to build families’ capacity for involvement in the school to support their children’s academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA. Please indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) school parent and family engagement policy components the school will implement to improve family-school partnerships:

We at Toni Morrison Elementary will also do the following:

- To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child’s education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and families who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.