

School Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Mark Twain Elementary – Richardson ISD

2025-2026

ESSA Every Student Succeeds Act 1116

Part I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The **Mark Twain Elementary** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Consistent with section 1116, the school will work to ensure that the required school level parent & family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116 of the ESSA, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA. (See **Enclosure**)
- Schools will notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- In carrying out Title I, Part A, parent & family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1116 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in language parents understand.
- If the school-wide program plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1116(b) of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the local educational agency (school district).
- The school will involve the parents 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 & family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school will build its own and the parent's capacity for strong parent & family engagement, to ensure effective involvement of parents, and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.
- The school will provide other reasonable support for parent & family engagement activities under section 1116 of the ESSA as the parents may request.

- The school will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent & family engagement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures by this definition:

Parent & family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

(A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;

(B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;

(C) that parents 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;

(D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESSA

Part II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

1. **Mark Twain Elementary** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school parent & family engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:
-Site-Based Decision-Making committee meetings (Parents are invited to participate in discussions and decisions related to school policies, programs, and improvement planning).
2. **Mark Twain Elementary** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:
- Site-Based Decision-Making committee meetings (Parents are invited to participate in discussions and decisions related to school policies, programs, and improvement planning).
3. **Mark Twain Elementary** will hold an annual meeting to inform parents of the school’s participation in Title I, Part A programs, and to explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in Title I, Part A programs. The school will convene the meeting at a time convenient for parents and will offer a flexible number of additional parent & family engagement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible can attend. The school will invite all parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs to this meeting, and will encourage them to attend, by:

-Title I Parent Information Meetings (Title I information is provided to parents, curriculum information is given to parents, parent, student, and school compacts are explained).
4. **Mark Twain Elementary** will provide parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that include a description and explanation of the school’s curriculum, the forms of academic assessment used to measure children’s progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet by:

-Title I Parent Information Meetings (Title I information is provided to parents, curriculum information is given to parents, parent, student, and school compacts are explained).

5. **Mark Twain Elementary** will, at the request of parents, provide opportunities for regular meetings for parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of their children. The school will respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible by:

-Title I Parent Information Meetings (Title I information is provided to parents, curriculum information is given to parents, parent, student, and school compacts are explained).

-Teacher/Grade Level Communication: This can include regular newsletters, emails, phone calls, and face-to-face meetings to keep parents informed about school activities, policies, and their child's progress.

-Site-Based Decision-Making committee meetings (Parents are invited to participate in discussions and decisions related to school policies, programs, and improvement planning).

6. **Mark Twain Elementary** will provide each parent with an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts, and reading by:

- *Quarterly Report Cards*
- *Progress reports every 3 weeks*
- *MAP/MCLASS BOY, MOY, and EOY reports*
- *Parent Growth Goal Camp*

7. **Mark Twain Elementary** will assist parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –

- the state's academic content standards,
- the state's student academic achievement standards,
- the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

8. **Mark Twain Elementary** will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parent & family engagement, by:

-STEM Night (Families come together to explore engineering, science, technology, and math with engaging hands-on activities provided to promote a love of STEM alongside family members.

-Reading Night (Teachers, students, and parents come together to celebrate a love of reading and promote literacy outside of the classroom. It encourages families to get involved in their children's academic achievement. It builds relationships among educators, families, and community partners.

9. **Mark Twain Elementary** will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

-Multicultural Night (teachers and students celebrate family diversity, connect with parents, and build strong relationships.)

-PTA/PTO - Schools should provide various opportunities for parent involvement via the parent, teacher association, in addition to others such as volunteering, participating in school events, serving on advisory committees (SBDM)

10. **Mark Twain Elementary** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent & family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool, and other programs. The school will also conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

-Wednesday Volunteers will receive parent education training from our in-house Parent Coordinator about various topics ie how to support teachers with Wednesday folders.

-We Read Program - MTE participates in WE READ through the district program. The volunteers come on Tuesdays and Thursdays to support students with reading

-FUMCR Volunteers - Mentor students, partner with We Read, and volunteer for support with Wednesday Folders and supporting teachers with lamination, etc.

11. **Mark Twain Elementary** will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

-School Marquee

-Wednesday Folders with school flyers

-Weekly grade-level parent newsletters

-TalkingPoints messages/announcements

-Call outs

-All in English and Spanish; other languages are accessible via the BB platform.

Part III. DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL, PARENT, & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

1. Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
2. Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
3. Provide reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent & family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
4. Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents;
5. Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, and arrange meetings with parents who are unable to attend conferences at school to maximize parent & family engagement and participation in their children's education;

6. Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent & family engagement;
7. Establish a school parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent & family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
8. Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent & family engagement activities.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This School Parent & Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Sharon Erickson.

This policy was adopted by Mark Twain Elementary in Richardson ISD and will be in effect for the 2025-2026 school year. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 9/15/2025.