

School Family Engagement Policy

NOTE: In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (family engagement policy).

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PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Thomas H. Harris Middle School agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Consistent with section 1118, the school will work to ensure that the required school level family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1118 of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- 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 the Title I, Part A, family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Thomas H. Harris Middle 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 1111 of the ESEA 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 1114(b) of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, Thomas H. Harris Middle School will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the local educational agency (school district).
- Thomas H. Harris Middle 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 family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- Thomas H. Harris Middle School will build its own and the parent's capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.
- Thomas H. Harris Middle School will provide other reasonable support for family engagement activities under section 1118 of the ESEA as the parents may request.
- Thomas H. Harris Middle School will be governed by the following statutory definition of family engagement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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 ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW SCHOOLS WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its school family engagement plan under section 1118 of the ESEA:

The lead parent from the Very Important Parent (VIP) group will be invited to participate as a member of the School Improvement Team and to help revise the Family Engagement Policy as needed.

At least one additional parent will be selected by administrators to serve on the team. Every effort will be made to ensure that selected parents are representative of the diversity that exists on our campus.

2. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

The lead parent from the Very Important Parent (VIP) group will be invited to participate as a member of the School Improvement Team and to help revise the Family Engagement Policy as needed.

At least one additional parent will be selected by administrators to serve on the team. Every effort will be made to ensure that selected parents are representative of the diversity that exists on our campus.

3. Thomas H. Harris Middle School 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 family engagement meetings, such as in the morning or evening, so that as many parents as possible are able to 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:

Holding the annual meeting in connection with the school's Open House at the start of each school year.

Sending communication to parents regarding the meeting via email and text messages.

4. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will provide parents of participating children information in a timely manner about Title I, Part A programs that includes 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:

Monthly VIP Reports (family newsletter) will be utilized to provide families with important information about curriculum, assessment and student progress toward mastery.

Parents will also be provided with login information for the Student Progress Center to track student progress in the classroom regularly.

Family Night activities will be geared toward helping families understand the rigor of state content standards, how those standards are assessed on state assessments, and how families can support students in working toward demonstrating mastery on those assessments.

5. Thomas H. Harris Middle School 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:

Setting up family meetings with counselors, teachers and administrators through the office.

Utilizing District-assigned Parent/Teacher Conference Days (biannually) to have two-way communication with families regarding student progress in the classroom.

6. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will provide each parent an individual student report about the performance of their child on the State assessment in at least math, language arts and reading by:

Disseminating Student Reports with LEAP 2025 scores and information as they are released by the Louisiana Department of Education at the start of each school year.

7. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will take the following actions to provide each parent timely notice when their child has been assigned or has been taught for four (4) or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not highly qualified within the meaning of the term in section 200.56 of the Title I Final Regulations (67 Fed. Reg. 71710, December 2, 2002) by:

Maintaining the information in the school office to be provided to parents via email upon request.

8. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will provide assistance to 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:

Office staff and paraprofessionals (including bilingual staff members) are available to assist parents with District resources, such as Student Progress Center.

Family Nights will incorporate opportunities for staff members to support parents with these resources as well.

9. Thomas H. Harris Middle School 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 family engagement, by:

Staff members are available to provide families with assistance in accessing District-provided resources, including curriculum support and Clever-based technology items.

10. Thomas H. Harris Middle School will, with the assistance of its parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in 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:

Providing training and assistance to school staff in utilizing digital communication features of JCampus for efficient communication with parents.

Providing support for interpreting services as needed to effectively communicate with bilingual families.

11. Thomas H. Harris Middle School 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:

Communication will be provided primarily through digital formats: text messages and email. Key information will be housed in students’ Google Classroom drives and posted on the school website for families to reference.

All digital communication will be provided in multiple languages.

Students will utilize Data Folders to transport important information home as needed.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This School Family engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was adopted by Thomas H. Harris Middle School on August 31, 2020 and will be in effect for the period of three years. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 13, 2020.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)