

# **Brady Independent School District**

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

### **ESSA Section 1116**

#### **2023 - 2024**

1. Brady ISD will reach out to all parents and family members and implement programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in programs consistent with the requirements of ESSA Section 1116. Such programs, activities, and procedures shall be planned and implemented through meaningful consultation with parents who have participating children.
  - Brady ISD will contact parents and family members to gather meaningful feedback by:
    - ❖ Phone
    - ❖ Email
    - ❖ Face to face conversations – time and place to be determined cooperatively between district and parent
    - ❖ District website
    - ❖ Survey(s)
    - ❖ Parent Square
2. Brady ISD receives Title I, Part A funds. Our goal is to plan and implement effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Therefore, Brady ISD will develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy.
  - This policy shall be incorporated into Brady ISD’s District Improvement Plan (DIP)
  - The policy will establish Brady ISD’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement.
    - ❖ The Brady ISD Parent & Family Engagement Policy is distributed and explained to parents at the fall District Leadership Team Meeting (Site Base Decision-Making Committee Meeting) and it is also available on the district website.
    - ❖ The Parent & Family Engagement Policy is typically reviewed and revised in the spring of each school year.
    - ❖ Parents and family members give feedback and input regarding the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
3. Brady ISD will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational plan (DIP) and the development of support and improvement plans.
  - The District Improvement Plan (DIP) is typically updated in the fall of each school year and as needed during the year since it is a working document.
  - Parents and family members are involved on DIP committees (District Site Base Decision Making Committee) providing valuable feedback and input on various areas.
4. Brady ISD will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency, in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and

philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

- Brady ISD works with the schools and the community to develop Parent and Family Engagement Strategies to work with parents for student success according to the following:
    - ❖ The district reviews the Parent and Family Engagement Policy with the District Leadership Team (District Site Base Decision Making Committee Members).
    - ❖ Individuals on the District Site Base Decision Making Committee provide valuable input and feedback into the development of strategies to work with parents.
5. Brady ISD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I, Part A, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
- Brady ISD Parent and Family Engagement Strategies are coordinated and integrated in the following ways:
    - ❖ A flexible number of meetings are offered to maximize the opportunities for parents and family members to participate in school related activities.
    - ❖ Meetings are coordinated to prevent parents from having to attend multiple different meetings for different areas (Title I, Migrant, EL, Sped, Homeless etc.) including parent and family engagement.
    - ❖ Translators are available
    - ❖ Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
6. Brady ISD will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying:
- Barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background);
  - The needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and
  - Strategies to support successful school and family interactions:
    - ❖ During the spring semester April – May the annual evaluation will be conducted.
    - ❖ The District Leadership Team (District Site Base Decision Making Committee) will conduct the evaluation.
    - ❖ Findings will be made public by June on the BISD website.
    - ❖ Parents and family members will be active participants as they are members of the District Site Base Decision-Making Committee.
7. Brady ISD will use the finding of such evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policies.
- The role of parents and family members in designing and implementing evidence-based strategies:
    - ❖ Brady ISD will offer resources and ideas to the parents and family members of evidence-based strategies found effective to increase parental involvement.
    - ❖ Parents and family members will provide ideas they believe will increase parental involvement

within Brady ISD.

- ❖ Brady ISD will utilize resources from Educational Service Centers.

8. Brady ISD will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy and provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

- Parent groups and booster clubs receive Title I, Part A information in the following ways:
  - ❖ Parents and family members who are part of parent groups or booster clubs receive their Title I, Part A informative meeting from the campus annual Title I meeting.
  - ❖ Parent groups consist of Brady Elementary PTO, Brady Elementary Watchdogs, and Brady Middle School PATS Organization.
  - ❖ Booster clubs consist of, Ol' Hound Dogs and Famed Brady Bulldog Band (FBBB).

9. To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, Brady ISD shall:

(i) aid parents of children served by the local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of the parent and family engagement program, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

- Resources and actions to assist parents are:
  - ❖ Brady ISD Parent Liaison: reports for home visits to families based upon a request from the school. Coordinates and conducts parent/student training sessions. Makes contact and motivates parents to attend school activities. Builds and maintains positive relationships with parents. The BISD Parent Liaison can be contacted at the BISD Administration office.
  - ❖ Parent/teacher conferences
  - ❖ txConnect Parent Portal to Texas Gradebook (monitor child(ren) grades)
  - ❖ Campus meetings regarding state academic standards
  - ❖ Open house/meet the teacher/report card pick up/STAAR Meeting

(ii) provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

- Brady ISD provides the following resources and actions to assist parents:
  - ❖ Brady ISD Parent Liaison, English Literacy Skills
  - ❖ Access to online educational programs such as Study Island, Learning.com, Imagine Learning, Discovery Education, and TexQuest.
  - ❖ LPAC training for parents of children in the ESL program
  - ❖ School counselors provide parents and family members with resources to help a child be successful in school including scholarship and college resources.
  - ❖ Some teachers provide materials for students to practice at home to reinforce learning in the classroom.
  - ❖ Schools provide newsletters regarding information parents need to know for upcoming activities.

❖ *The Parent & Family Engagement Connection* newsletter posted four times a year is available in English, Spanish, Vietnamese, German and Korean and is accessible from the Brady ISD website under link for parents and students.

(iii) educating teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and unity of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school:

- Brady ISD has determined it is more effective for the individual campuses and departments to educate its staff about the importance of parent contributions, how to reach out to parents, communicate with parents, and work with parents as equal partners. How to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school.
- Brady ISD will support and assist individual campuses and departments with this initiative as needed.
- Brady ISD staff will be educated in the following ways:
  - ❖ Teacher/staff in-service
  - ❖ Faculty/department meetings
  - ❖ Staff is encouraged to contact parents with a positive contact regarding a specific item a child has done or accomplished.

(iv) ensuring that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

- Brady ISD will translate the following:
  - ❖ District Parent and Family Engagement Policy in English and Spanish on the district website.
  - ❖ The District Improvement Plan is available in English and Spanish.
  - ❖ The district website can be translated into various languages (Spanish, Cantonese, French, German, Italian, Tagalog, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, and Hindi) by selecting the language toggle button in the black bar on the top of the Brady ISD website.
  - ❖ Parents/Guardians can change the language on the district Facebook page by scrolling down and finding a link to translate into another language.
  - ❖ Parent Square messages are automatically translated into the home language.
  - ❖ A Brady ISD Parent Liaison is available for the district to help translate information for parents/guardians into Spanish.