



## Westcliffe Elementary

105 Eastbourne Road \* Greenville, SC \* 29611 \* 864/355-0300 \* fax 864/355-0360

### SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2021-2022

To implement an effective Parent and Family Engagement Policy and plan to support students' academic success, Westcliffe will do the following either in person or virtually as attendance plan permits:

- A. Involve parents and families in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, joint development of the Schoolwide Program and process of school review and improvement through the following:
  - Inviting parents and families to meetings to provide them with timely information about the school's Title I program including but not limited to: the school's participation in Title I, the requirements of the program, their right to be involved and request their participation in the joint development of the Title I Schoolwide Program Plan by determining the school's needs and how best to use Title I funds to meet those needs.
  - Reviewing our jointly developed School-Parent Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Policy annually outlining how the staff, parents, families, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student achievement.
- B. Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities, to foster parent and family involvement and to improve student academic achievement and school performance through the following:
  - Providing materials and trainings to help parents and families in how to monitor their children progress, partner with educators to improve student achievement, and by maintaining a Family Engagement Center with materials available for checkout.
  - Providing training to school staff in the value of parent and family contributions and communication, working together as partners, implementing programs and building ties between the families and the school.
  - Soliciting 100% attendance for parent and/or family member-teacher conferences the first quarter of school. All parents and families will be encouraged to attend in person or virtual third quarter conferences and to schedule others as needed or requested.
- C. Build the school's and family's capacity for strong parental involvement by:
  - Soliciting parents and family members to volunteer in the classrooms and in other school activities and to participate in decisions about the school and school programs.
  - Maintaining teacher webpages, or providing newsletters, to inform parents and families of instructional objectives, units of study, school news, upcoming events, and deadlines for projects.
  - Providing reasonable access for parent and/or family member-teacher conferences and observations of classroom activities.
  - Notifying parents and families with flyers, telephone calls, emails, postings on the school marquee, and the school webpage calendar of involvement opportunities, parent and family programs, and support services in a timely manner.
- D. Coordinate and integrate Title I parent and family involvement strategies with parent and family involvement strategies under other programs by:
  - Working with the PTA, School Improvement Council (SIC), Federal, State, and local agencies including preschool programs and businesses to offer family programs to support parent and family participation in the education of their children.
  - Offering numerous opportunities for school/community participation in parent and family trainings in literacy, technology, understanding State academic standards and assessments to improve student achievement.
- E. Conduct, with parents and family, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of the school, including identifying barriers to greater

participation by families in school related activities with particular attention to families who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, are migratory, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement; and revise, if necessary, the parent and family involvement policies described. Procedures will include the following:

- Soliciting parental and familial input to aid in our evaluation of our parent and family involvement program.
  - Providing full opportunity for the participation of parents and families with limited English proficiency, parents and families with disabilities, and parents and families of migratory children, including information and school reports in an easy to read format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents and families understand.
- F. Involve parents and families in activities of the school and forward all information to parents and families related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a timely manner in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and families can understand by:
- Providing social work services for students and parents to assist with the home-school connection.
  - Informing and inviting parents and families of all school and parenting programs, meetings and activities, and keep records of attendance and involvement.
  - Soliciting parents and families as volunteers, to serve on committees, and suggestions for input into decisions about the school, school and parent involvement programs.
  - Providing an explanation of the school's curriculum, the academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
  - Informing and offering assistance in understanding of the State academic standards and assessments, student achievement standards, local assessments, and how to monitor their children's academic progress and work with teachers to improve student achievement.
- G. Make accommodations to support parent and family involvement at the district and school levels through the following:
- Arranging school and parent and family meetings, including parent conferences, at different times during the day or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.
  - Encouraging parent and family involvement by paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation, childcare, or home visit costs to enable participation in school-related meetings and training sessions.
  - Providing training of parents and families, if needed, to train other parents and families to enhance the involvement.
  - Participating in district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental and familial involvement in programs supported by the law.
  - Providing other reasonable support for parental and familial involvement activities under this section as parents may request.
  - Providing, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to create suggestions and, as appropriate, have a voice in decisions involving their child's education and will respond to these suggestions in a timely manner.
  - Responding to all written or oral parent and family concerns, suggestions, requests for meetings, recommendations, or communications related to the school program within 24 hours or by the next school day.
- H. Provide all parents and families of participating Title I students' access to the LEA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy by October 31 of each year.
- I. Provide all parents and families of students in Title I schools information about their right to know the qualifications of their children's teachers, paraprofessionals, or substitute teachers. Notice of this right of any person who does not meet the highly qualified criteria will be forwarded to parents and families by October 31 of each year.