**Policy Booster: Parent & Family Engagement Board Policy Title I**

Title I Accountability provisions require that the school district have a parent and family engagement board policy. Your district may have mentions of family engagement, encouraging connections to parents, volunteers in the school, etc., that collectively would encompass many of these expectations. ISFIS 556 Parent/Guardian Involvement does address some of these expectations, but goes beyond the Title I requirements in addressing the importance of involving parents, guardians and families for all students. ISFIS 100 Education Philosophy states the importance of community and family support in success for students. Family and Community Involvement are also listed as an important support for successful student learning under ISFIS 635 Student Health Services Regulation. ISFIS 211 mentions the importance of community involvement in establishing advisory committees to the board. It’s important to look through your own board policy manual and search for terms such as “parent involvement” or “Community involvement” to make sure you do not have contradictory policy expectations. As long as they are aligned, it makes sense to have such an important component to student success mentioned in several areas.

However, in demonstrating compliance with the federal requirements for Title I, it might simplify your efforts at documentation to have this policy specifically for Title I compliance in one place with all required details included.

We suggest you add the policy in the 500 student series. For our ISFIS Starter Policy Manual, we are including it as 556.1 with the above title specifically mentioning Title 1.

**Sample Draft Policy**

We’ve attached a sample Board Policy to this Policy Booster for your reference by creating a new 556.1 Parent and Family Engagement Title I.

Contact margaret@iowaschoolfinance.com with questions.

***The “dot your I’s and cross your T’s” disclaimer:*** *This Policy Booster is not a substitute for legal advice, but rather, the impetus to get the local ball rolling. Check with your local school attorney and consider the impact this policy will have on other policies, handbooks, bargaining agreements, administrative procedures and forms in the district.*

**556.1 Parent and Family Engagement Title I**

Parent and family engagement is an important component in a student’s success in school. The board encourages parents and families to become involved in their child’s education to ensure the child’s academic success. The board will:

1. Involve parents and families in the development of the Title I plan, the process for school review of the plan and the process for improvement;
2. Provide the coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance;
3. To the extent feasible, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under Title I with parent and family engagement strategies outlined in other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs;
4. Conduct with the 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 the school served including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Title I activities (with particular attention to low-income parents, Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents, parents of any racial or ethnic minority, parents with disabilities and parents with limited literacy);
5. Use the findings of the annual evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family involvement and to revise, as necessary, the parent and family involvement policies; and;
6. Involve parents and families in Title I activities.

The board will review this policy annually. The superintendent is responsible for notifying parents and families of this policy annually or within a reasonable time after it has been amended during the school year. The superintendent may develop an administrative process or procedures to implement this policy.