School Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy
Strong Start Academy Elementary School
School Year 2026-2027

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Strong Start Academy receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Strong Start Academy agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:
    - Parent and 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) Parents play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning
        (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
        (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Strong Start Academy will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Parents will be involved in the development of the school's Parent/Family Engagement Policy by participating in parent and family feedback surveys, attending monthly Title I events and other family meetings and activities, including Strong Start Academy's Board meetings.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Strong Start Academy will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The school will hold the Annual Title I Parent/Family meeting during the school's Open House to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting should not be used to ask for parent input, but provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Strong Start Academy will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs.
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the 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:

    - All communications with parents will be sent via email through the Weekly Parent Communication, Class Dojo messages, phone calls, text messages and fliers sent home in both English and Spanish.

    - The Parent/Family Engagement Plan will be disseminated via email through the Weekly Parent Communication and a QR code will be made available during Open House and the plan will also be posted on the school's website.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Strong Start Academy will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

The school will continue to work with families to ensure the existing School-Parent Compact accurately represents the shared responsibilities of parents, school staff, and students of Strong Start Academy.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Strong Start Academy will take the following actions to 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 and family engagement is spent by:

- Title I budget is shared with parents during the Annual Title I meeting. During this meeting, parents will be provided with information on how the Title I funds were used at Strong Start Academy:

    - Supplemental instructional programs

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Strong Start Academy will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local 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 by:

- Hiring a Safe School Professional who will develop community partnerships that will help provide services to the families of Strong Start Academy.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Strong Start Academy will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
    - The challenging State's academic standards
    - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
    - The requirements of Title I, Part A
    - How to monitor their child's progress
    - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
        - Additional learning opportunities are provided to parents to explain curriculum, provide strategies and explanations on how to help students at home, and how to use Infinite Campus to monitor student academic progress and grades.
        - 3 parent-teacher conferences are held each year, during which time parents are provided with a detailed overview of students' academic performance and progress, students' academic goals, and suggestions on how to support academic progress at home.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Strong Start Academy will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility 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 by:

Attending professional development, conferences, trainings, online resources, and parent-teacher conferences and feedback avenues to improve building staff capacity.

Strong Start Academy will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

- Providing consistent communication with parents regarding all parents and family engagement activities in English and Spanish.
- Soliciting feedback from families to determine how needs for support may be met via family needs and feedback surveys.
- Be flexible and open to accommodate parent requests.
- Serve parents as needed.