

Parent and Family “Meetings,” ESSA Section 1116

Statutory Reference:

Each school served under this part shall – offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement. ESSA Section 1116 (c)(2)

United States Department of Education (USDE) has not provided Parent and Family Engagement non-regulatory guidance. Therefore, TEA is providing parent and family engagement meetings guidance in the following manner.

Meetings

The statutory requirement is to have various opportunities for parent engagement activities available on different days and times.

- The Annual Title I, Part A Meeting is a required meeting, and it must be offered on more than one day and at more than one time, so that parents have more than one option to attend; ESSA Section 1116 (c)(1)
- Each Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) meeting must be provided on multiple dates and times for parents to receive the same information and to participate in planning, evaluation, and policy development. ESSA Section 1116 (c)(2). For example:
 - soliciting input regarding the PFE policy and school-parent compact, ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2), (b)(1), (c)(3);
 - gathering feedback about the content and effectiveness of the PFE policy, ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(D);
 - receiving input regarding how funds for PFE are being allotted for PFE activities, ESSA Section 1116 (a)(3)(B); and
 - explaining annual school report cards, student curriculum and assessment, and STAAR tests, ESSA Section 1116 (c)(4)(B), (d)(1) & (d)(2)(B).
- Other PFE training activities should be offered more than once, when feasible. For example:
 - providing training to parents and family about homework strategies;
 - providing materials and training to help parents work with their children in literacy or using technology; and
 - providing training in reading or math or other types of academic enrichment.

What is the intent of the statute?

Schools need to reach out and include as many parents, family members or legal guardians as practicable in compliance training and other PFE activities and programs. Schools also need to provide these services and opportunities at flexible times and at a location that best meets the needs of the parents.

Statutory Reference:

*Each school served under this part shall – involve **parents**, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy... (with a process that) includes an adequate representation of **parents** of participating children. ESSA Section 1116 (c)(3)*

Parent, family members or legal guardian involvement

Statute reads parents, family members, or guardians which means more than one for adequate representation of parents. Multiple parent, family member or legal guardian representation is needed. For example:

- developing/revising the school parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact, ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2), (b)(1), (c)(3);
- developing/revising the campus improvement plan, ESSA Section (c)(3);
- evaluating the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy, ESSA Section 1116 (a)(2)(D);
- deciding how funds under this part will be allotted for parental involvement activities, ESSA Section 1116 (a)(3)(B); and
- developing training for school staff, ESSA Section 1116 (e)(3) & (6).

The school should solicit public comment from parents, family members, and legal guardians on the topics identified above. Comments will be used in the final decision making.

If the Site-Based Decision-Making committee is the primary committee for these tasks, it is important that the parent representatives complement the demographics of the LEA and school.

For more information, please contact your Regional ESC Title I, Part A contact or the Title I, Part A Parent and Family Statewide Initiative at t1pfe@esc16.net

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