**KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

**LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

***Alternative Education***

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools’ Alternative Education program, with parents/guardians and family members, has jointly developed, mutually agreed upon, and distributed to, parents/guardians and family members of participating children, a written LEA parent and family engagement policy.

**Describe how parents and family members are involved in the development of the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement policy. (ESSA Section 1116[a][2]):**

The Alternative Education program has developed a written Title I, Part A LEA-Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy with input from Title I parents/guardians and families. The policy applies to all parents/guardians and family members of students who are enrolled in the Alternative Education program. The Court School Site Council, Community School Site Council, and District English Language Advisory Committee members review the policy annually and provide suggestions for changes and modifications, if needed. In addition, any parent/guardian input received through the annual LCAP survey is considered. The policy is amended based on School Site Council, District English Language Advisory Committee, and survey input, along with any updates to the program’s processes and protocols regarding parent/guardian and family engagement.

**Describe how parents and family members will be involved in the development of the LEA Plan and support improvement plans under ESSA Section 1111(d)(1-2)(ESSA Section 1116[a][2][A]:**

Parents/guardians and family members are involved in the development of the LEA Plan through an annual survey. This survey covers a variety of areas within the Alternative Education program, including curriculum, instruction, school safety, and parent/guardian involvement. Data from the survey, including comments, assists the program in ensuring a safe and quality education for all students. Parents/guardians and families are also invited to attend one of the program’s Town Hall meetings where information related to the Local Control Funding Formula (LCFF) and Local Control and Accountability Plan (LCAP) are made available.

**Describe how the LEA provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the LEA in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, and how this may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education (ESSA Section 116[a][2][B]):**

The Alternative Education program engages in two-way communication with educational partners in order to support parent/guardian and family involvement and engagement. Collaboration with educational partners, including the Kern County Probation Department, local mental health agencies, and various community organizations, is a strength for the Alternative Education program. The program provides coordination, technical assistance, and necessary support in a variety of ways. Engagement efforts include:

* Providing professional learning opportunities for the program’s leadership staff and the Outreach and Engagement Facilitator. Leadership staff is responsible for overseeing the implementation of parent/guardian and family activities at their school sites. The Outreach and Engagement Facilitator is responsible for facilitating parent/guardian and family involvement at the Community School level.
* Assisting parents/guardians and family members in understanding topics such as academic content standards, state assessment results, and Title I requirements.
* Ensuring information related to parent/guardian and family engagement meetings and activities are sent to parents/guardians in a format, and to the extent possible, in a language the parents/guardians can understand.
* Providing additional reasonable support for parent/guardian and family engagement activities, as requested.

Despite these efforts, institution restrictions can severely limit the ability of the program to actively and regularly engage the parents/ guardians and family members of students in those facilities.

**Describe how the LEA coordinates or integrates parent and family engagement strategies with other relevant federal, state, local laws, and programs (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][C]:**

The Alternative Education program collaborates with the Student Wellness division to support parent/guardian and family involvement and engagement strategies and activities. School Wellness offers Parent Project classes in both English and Spanish each semester. School Social Workers provide professional learning for parents/guardians and families based on need. Professional learning topics may include, but are not limited to, human trafficking, suicide awareness, and teen dating violence awareness. School sites host annual Back to School Night events in the fall and the program annually hosts Town Hall meetings at various school sites to explain the LCFF/LCAP process to parents/guardians and solicit feedback.

**Describe how the LEA will conduct, with meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Policy on improving academic quality of all schools served under Title I, Part A (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D]:**

The Alternative Education program will conduct an annual evaluation of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy at Court School Site Council, Community School Site Council, and District English Learners Advisory Committee meetings. These groups are responsible for reviewing and revising the policy, as needed. Parents/guardians are asked to complete the annual LCAP survey, which includes matters related to academic quality and student learning.

**Describe how the LEA includes the following in the annual evaluation of the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement policy: identify 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); identify the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][D][i-iii]:**

The Alternative Education program annually reviews the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy with Court School Site Council, Community School Site Council, and District English Learner Advisory Committee representatives. The annual review consists of the following:

* Discuss barriers to parent/guardian and family participation in school activities, including the program’s severely limited access to parents of students residing in institutions and short enrollment periods at both Court and Community Schools;
* Discuss the needs of parents/guardians and families to partner with the school to ensure academic success for their student;
* Review data related to parent/guardian and family participation in school activities;
* Review data from the annual LCAP survey to determine the impact of parent/guardian and family involvement and engagement efforts.

**Describe how the LEA will use the findings of such evaluation ESSA Section 1116(a)(2)(D)(i-iii) to design evidence based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, the parent and family engagement policy (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][E]):**

The Alternative Education program reviews feedback from the annual review process to determine if revisions are needed to the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Input from parent/guardian surveys will also be considered in order to provide more effective parent/guardian and family engagement and involvement. Where there are gaps, the program will work with specific divisions within the county office of education to redesign and implement new evidence-based strategies for increased and more productive parent/guardian and family involvement.

**Describe how the LEA involves parents in the activities of the schools served under Title I, Part A, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the LEA to adequately represent the needs of the population served by the LEA for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy (ESSA Section 1116[a][2][F]):**

Due to a highly transient student population and restricted parent/guardian access in the institutions, the Alternative Education program has historically faced challenges in engaging parents/guardians and families in their student’s education. Parents/guardians are annually recruited for involvement on either the Court or Community School Site Council, the Court or Community English Learner Advisory Committee, and/or the District English Learner Advisory Committee. The program solicits parent/guardian involvement in the planning, operation, and evaluation of its programs through these various committees. These committees specifically have an active role in developing, revising, and reviewing the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

The Kern County Superintendent of Schools Alternative Education program’s Title I, Part A LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy was updated, jointly developed, and agreed on with parents/guardians and family members of children participating in the Title I, Part A programs at meetings in September and October of 2023. The LEA will distribute the Policy to all parents/guardians and family members of participating Title I, Part A students annually on or before July 1 for currently enrolled students and when students enroll throughout the school year.

Molly Mier – Director II

Kern County Superintendent of Schools – Alternative Education

October 26, 2023