Gilbert School
2025 - 2026

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Gilbert School receives Title I, Part A funds and 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 district.

Gilbert School 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 targeted assistance or schoolwide program plan.
• 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 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:

o 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: Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning,
o Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school,
o 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, and
Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.

Required School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

The school parent and family engagement policy includes a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components:

• Jointly Developed
Gilbert School 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.

The district and school policies, and the School Improvement Plans are reviewed each school year and revised annually. Sources used in the development of these policies and plans include individual school meetings, annual parent survey results, parent meetings, and parent-teacher conferences. This policy and all school policies are posted on our system and school websites where they are available for parent comments and suggestions. This policy is a working document subject to review and revision.

• **Annual Title I Meeting**
Gilbert School 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.

Gilbert School will conduct its annual Title I meeting in conjunction with its annual Back-to-School Night. Parents will be informed about the school's Title I program, the requirements of the program for school and parents, the school family engagement policy, the school-parent compact, and the school's planned family engagement activities. Parents will be surveyed to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent and family engagement programs. Parents will be given the option to complete a survey electronically. The results of these surveys will be used to develop strategies for school improvement and to revise the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies. These results are also used in planning

future parent meetings. Areas evaluated include academics and school leadership, parent involvement, Title I, school environment, and the school Parent and Family Engagement Program.

• **Communications**

Gilbert School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- o Timely information about the Title I programs
- o Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening
- o 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.

Gilbert School will make the School Family Engagement Policy available to all parents by publishing the policy on the district website.

• **School-Parent Compact**

Gilbert School 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.

Gilbert School will hold an annual parent meeting to review and discuss any needed changes to the jointly developed school compact. This compact will outline how the entire school staff, parents, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact will describe not only the school's responsibility in providing high quality instruction and curriculum, but the student and parent responsibilities for meeting and supporting the learning processes. The compact will address how parents have reasonable access to staff, receive frequent reports on their progress, and have the opportunity to volunteer and observe in the classroom.

• Reservation of Funds (only applicable to districts with Title I allocations of $500,000 or more)

If applicable, Gilbert School 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:

Each Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator offers each parent the opportunity to give feedback on the 1% reservation of funds by surveying parents on the use of funds. During the Annual Title I meeting, the school will share the budget for parent and family engagement activities.

- **Coordination of Services**
  Gilbert School 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:

  - *Gilbert School PreK teacher will coordinate with the Kindergarten teacher to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students from these programs to Kindergarten.*
  - *Gilbert School will coordinate with Franklin Parish high school to facilitate a smooth transition for both parents and students by working collaboratively as students move from one instructional level to the next.*

- **Building Capacity of Parents**
  Gilbert School 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:
  o Provide 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;
  o Provide 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; and
  o Provide 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, and
  ▪ How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child.

  Gilbert School will provide tips and ideas to parents on helping their children with core content subject areas through presentation at family academic events.

• Building Capacity of School Staff

Gilbert School 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:

- *Sending home progress reports*
- *Scheduling parent/teacher conferences*
- *Making phone calls; sending home homework, and parent communication flyers,and newsletters*
- *Serving together on school and district committees*