

Family and Community Engagement Policy

Revised April 2022

Part 1: General Expectations:

Burke Street Elementary School, in Berkeley County, agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Burke Street will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement and engagement of parents and family members. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Burke Street will monitor activities to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Every Student Succeed Act (ESSA). This will include the parent/student/school compact, which focuses on our core beliefs of AIR (accountability, integrity, and respect).
- Burke Street will notify parents of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. The policy will be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.
- Burke Street will provide full opportunities 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents understand.
- If the school-wide program plan for Title I, Family and Community Engagement, developed under ESSA is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, Burke Street will include any parent comments with the plan to the district office upon submission.
- Burke Street will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A funding in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to the schools served by Title I.
- Burke Street will build its own and the parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.
- Burke Street will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as under section 1118 of the ESSA as the parents may request.
- Burke Street will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with the following definition:

Parents and family, engagement means the participation of parents and/or family members in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- a) *That parents and family members play an important role in assisting their child's learning.*
- b) *That parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.*
- c) *That parents and family members 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) *That the activities described in ESSA, and in the policy, are carried out.*

Part II: Burke Street Elementary School will implement required Parent and Family Engagement components as described below:

- To involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under ESSA, Burke Street will:
 - Seek parent and/or family representation at school LSIC meetings and other planning teams as needed.
 - Parent and/or family representatives will seek input and make suggestions to school level teams and plans such as the Local School Improvement Council and the 5-Year Strategic Plan.
- To involve parents and/or family members in the process of school review and improvement under ESSA, Burke Street School will:
 - Share information through meetings, conferences, websites, and info sent home, of the goals, objectives, activities, and services as described in the school's 5-Year Strategic Plan.
 - Invite and encourage parents and/or families to attend the open house informational meeting and share information about the Title I program services.
 - Ensure the Student/Parent/School Compact, required in Title 1 funded schools, is reviewed, and discussed with parents and family members as it relates to achievement.
- Burke Street will provide necessary assistance and support to aid in effective parent and family engagement.
 - Be sure that parent and family engagement polices, and compacts are distributed and/or made available to all parents via our website.
 - Recommend and share effective parent and family engagement literature, materials, or other programs.
 - Train and review with teachers how to work effectively with parents and family members.
 - Host at least two events for parents or family members to attend with their children that can enhance relationships and provide skills they can use at home. One event will be provided during the school day and at least one in the evening.
- Burke Street will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with Title I, Head Start, and Preschool by:
 - Implementing a Preschool Transition Plan

- Provide materials, home visits, and invitations to events to help parents form relationships and improve their child's achievement.
- Burke Street will provide parents the opportunity to reflect on and give feedback on the effectiveness of our policies, training, and engagement opportunities, and extended day services through surveys and evaluations.
 - Burke Street will consider the suggestions given to possibly modify policies and activities to better meet family and student needs.
- Burke Street will promote the schools' and parent's/family members' capacity to form a strong partnership and work toward high achievement by:
 - Sharing effective strategies and common goals.
 - Providing access to and understanding of state standards for achievement.
 - Providing frequent reports on their child's academic progress.
 - Allowing the checkout of materials or learning activities to enhance and support in home achievement.
 - Encouraging parent/family engagement activities with preschool programs, extended day programs, parent workshops, fun nights, conferences, and multiple outreach sources.
 - Maintain partnerships with community-based organizations and businesses that support our school, workshops, and programs that consider flexible scheduling of activities to enable parents/family to participate with various work schedules.
 - Offer training for all school staff on ways to improve parent/family engagement services including ideas on reaching out and communicating.
- Burke Street will promote communication through parent-teacher-student conferences, newsletters, progress reports, home visits, email, Intouch, Facebook, school website, Schoology, and Class Dojo.
- Burke Street will ensure that parents have access to the school's Compact, the Family and Community Engagement Policy, and that "Parents have the right to request information about the qualifications of their child's teacher.
 - Made available on our website and through newsletter reminders.
 - Available during family nights and at conferences.