The Sharon Public Schools are committed to the belief that all children can learn and acknowledges that parents share in the district’s commitment to the educational success of their children.

We recognize that a child’s education is a responsibility shared by the school and family, and agree that to effectively educate all students, the schools and parents must work together as equal partners. We define parent and family involvement as an ongoing process that assists parents and families in meeting their basic obligation as the first educators for their children. This process promotes a clear two-way dialogue between home and school and supports parents as leaders and decision makers in all instances concerning the education of their children.

To this end and in keeping with the guidelines of Every Student Succeeds Act, parents and school staff jointly develop Title I Family Involvement Programs in designated buildings. The Title 1 designated building will be communicated to all parents on the district website and in the welcome letter to parents of the designated school. Parents, community members, and school district personnel meet in the summer each year to review Title I documents and make necessary revisions to school-level plans. Appropriate offerings and practices will be implemented to enhance family engagement activities and reflect the needs of the students and families. Each school’s family engagement program will provide a guideline for designing rewarding and beneficial experiences for students, families and staff. In the spring of each year, the Title I team will provide families with opportunities to offer input for the Title I program, school level plan, and family engagement activities via the Needs Assessment Surveys. The Family and Parent Engagement Program will include a school-parent compact; and support the development, implementation, and regular evaluation of the family involvement program by parents.

Family involvement is an ongoing process that assists parents in working with their children at home and makes them feel part of the school community. We recognize the importance of parents being the first educators their children will
encounter. We will continue to promote two-way communication between home and school. Valuing the importance of the role of all parents, we will ask for their input as leaders and decision-makers in our schools.

General Expectations:

- Sharon Public Schools will offer activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of our schools consistent with section 1118(e) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These programs will be planned and operated in conjunction with parents of participating children. In the spring of each year, parents will be able to provide input in the development of the Title I Plan by completing a Needs Assessment Survey.
- All Title I schools will involve parents in the development of a school-parent compact on a yearly basis.
- The school district will incorporate the district-wide family engagement policy into its LEA (Local Education Agency) plan developed using ESSA guidelines.
- All families are welcomed and encouraged to participate in family involvement activities. We will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English speaking abilities, parents of students with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.
- To the greatest extent possible, we will provide information and school reports to parents in an understandable and uniform format. This would include translating important documents for families with limited English proficiency.
- If parents have any complaints about the district’s plan for family involvement, they may submit their thoughts and suggestions to the Title 1 Director title1@sharonschools.net. This procedure will be shared with parents during the schools’ Title I Parent meeting. SPS will include parent comments to the Massachusetts Department of Education while filing their annual plan.
- Parents will be included in making spending decisions regarding the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent engagement. Parents are encouraged to work with the Title I Director to assist in the designated spending plans.
- Parents will be invited to meet annually to revise and construct the Title 1 Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
• All parents in designated Title 1 schools will have the opportunity to complete an end of year survey reviewing the family engagement activities offered by the individual building.

• The results from this survey will be used when planning activities for the following school year. Information will include barriers to greater participation in activities, needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Incidentals

• SPS, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, will help parents of children in understanding topics such as:
  o Academic content standards
  o Student achievement standards
  o State and local assessments (including alternate assessments)
  o Monitoring student progress
  o How to work with your child’s teacher(s) to increase achievement

• Working with parents, the SPS will educate all staff on different communication strategies. The district will stress the importance of working with parents as equal partners and strengthening the bond between home and school.

• All designated schools will hold annual Title I meetings to inform parents of the rights they have as Title I families.

Adopted: January 22, 2020