

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Gene Brown Elementary

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Gene Brown Elementary School
2021-2022 SY
August 1, 2021

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Gene Brown Elementary** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore 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 local educational agency (LEA).

Gene Brown Elementary School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families, 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 school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of families and the school, distribute it to the families 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 families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families 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 families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family 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:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) families 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
- (D) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Gene Brown Elementary will take the following actions to involve families 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 families, 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.

GBE families are invited to a series of brainstorming sessions with a team of other GBE stakeholders. Faculty members, administration, and community members collaborate to establish and review the Family Engagement Policy.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Gene Brown Elementary will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all families of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the families' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the school wide plan, and the home-school compact.

Gene Brown's Annual Title I meeting will occur via a power point slide show at the beginning of the school year. The power point will also be posted on the website so there will be unlimited opportunities for families to view the power point.

COMMUNICATIONS

Gene Brown Elementary School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

Communication with parents regarding Title I programs will be distributed through various means including the use of informational flyers, social media, school website, Remind, Google Classroom, school displays, and the school sign/marquee. Flyers and social media messages will be provided in Spanish to accommodate our Hispanic population.

HOME-SCHOOL COMPACT

Gene Brown Elementary will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

GBE families are invited to a series of brainstorming sessions with a team of other GBE stakeholders. Faculty members, administration, and community members collaborate to establish and review the School-Parent Compact. Results of the annual Interest Survey assist in

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Gene Brown Elementary** will take the following actions to involve the families 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:

GBE will reserve 1% or more of our allocations for parent and family engagement activities. GBE will share with families the budget for parent and family engagement activities in our Annual Meeting. Additionally, families will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used through the use of surveys and stakeholder meetings.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Gene Brown Elementary 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 families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Gene Brown Elementary has a vast array of community and business partners that work together to support the students, teachers, and families of our school. Service-oriented churches, **Church of Christ, United Methodist, New Creation Church, and Community Church**, support GBE teachers with endless displays of gratitude and support our students with school supplies and clothing. Food packs for the Back-Pack Club are provided by the **Hendersonville Samaritan Center**. The **Rotary Club** sponsors the character-development program "Wheels in Motion" which awards a deserving student with a bicycle. They also supply mentors to work with our at-risk students. The **Middle Tennessee Literacy Council** supplies weekly tutors in our K-1 classrooms through their COVER program. **Kids on the Block** support our students with character education and a literacy program for first graders. **Arise-to-Read** works with our second graders with the instructional focus of reading and writing sight word vocabulary. **Centerstone Health** provides mental health counseling. In addition, our 4th and 5th graders receive the unique experiences provided through **A-H**. GBE 3rd-5th graders have the opportunity to join **Unity** for after-school

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Gene Brown Elementary will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by

GBE faculty and staff will participate in job-embedded trainings, PLCs, and conferences. The Title I reading specialist and the Interventionist will receive extensive training in Foundations, Wilson Reading System, and Just Words. All teachers will receive training in technology through our Sumner Connect Lead. Teacher Leaders will be the liaisons between district initiatives and the Lead Educator will provide professional learning for instructional learning in ELA and Math. In addition, opportunities to attend virtual conferences will be extended to the faculty. GBE will also continue its journey of adopting trauma-informed practices; we will continue to embrace

Gene Brown Elementary will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

GBE will continue its partnership with the many community organizations that assist families and students. Parents often request homework assistance and that is provided through Unity. GBE will continue to welcome parent input on what families need in order to work in coordination with the school in supporting their student(s).

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

Gene Brown Elementary will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement.

During the 2021-22 school year, GBE will focus on 'socially-distanced' family engagement activities, especially during the first semester. We plan to offer Drive-Through events as an option for engaging families. If in-person activities are permitted during the second semester, GBE plans to hold its second Multi-Cultural family event, which will involve our EL teacher, our Hispanic teaching assistants, and the community.