



BALDWIN-WHITEHALL SCHOOL DISTRICT
Title I School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Whitehall Elementary School

The Title I Parent and Family Engagement section of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Section 1116(b) requires each Title I school to develop a written parent and family engagement policy that describes the means for carrying out the requirements of Section 1116. The Whitehall Elementary School ensures that information related to school and parent/family programs, meetings, and other activities are sent to the parents of Title I children in a format and in a language the parents can understand.

This policy will be:

- developed jointly with and agreed upon by parents and family members of Title I children;
- written in an understandable format and provided in a language parents can understand;
- distributed to all parents and family members of Title I children;
- made available to the local community; and
- updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents, family members, and the school.

The Whitehall Elementary School will involve parents/families in the planning, review, and improvement of the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy (*ESSA, Section 1116(b)(1)*) by:

- Offering parents/families with resources and information to support their child at home
- Hosting family involvement activities, both virtually and in-person. All opportunities will be accessible to families with limited English speaking abilities, and/or parents of students with disabilities
- Informing parents and sharing information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format, including the translation of important documents for families with limited English proficiency.

The Whitehall Elementary School will convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time;

- which all parents and family members of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend;
- to inform parents of their schools' participation as a Title I school; and
- to explain the requirements and the rights for parents to be involved (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(1)*).

The Whitehall Elementary School will offer a flexible number of meetings, in the morning and/or the evening (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(2)*).

October 26, 2022 – Noon

March 23, 2023 – 6:30 p.m.

The Whitehall Elementary School will involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement program (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(3)*).

A meeting to review the 2022/2023 Title I Parent/Family Engagement Program and plan for the 2023-2024 Title I Parent/Family Engagement Program is scheduled for **March 22, 2023**.

Whitehall Elementary School will provide parents of participating children with timely information about the Title I program (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)*) by:

- Making information accessible through the district's website: www.bwschools.net
- Utilizing Twitter, in addition to working with traditional media partners to share information with families and the community.
- Skylerts, weekly school newsletters and Dojo communications to parents/guardians will be available as a source of communicating pertinent information.

The Whitehall Elementary School provides parents of participating children 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 (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(B)*). Parents/guardians have the opportunity to participate in Back-to-School Curriculum Nights, parent-teacher conferences to meet the child's teacher, as well as to receive information from the school administrative team in a recorded format outlining the school's programming options. All events are presented in a virtual format, both live and recorded, for anytime access. During the annual Back-to-School Nights, an explanation of the curriculum for the various grade levels is shared, and the teachers address the PA state standards for math, ELA, science, and social studies.

The Whitehall Elementary School provides, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible (*ESSA, Section 1116(c)(4)(C)*).

Parents are welcome to meet with faculty/staff at any time. Appointments can be scheduled to meet and discuss progress or concerns upon request. Additionally, annual conferences, in November, are conducted.

The Whitehall Elementary School involves parents and family members in the joint development of the Schoolwide Program Plan under Section 1114 per ESSA (*ESSA, Section 1116(5)*).

The school-parent compact will be jointly developed with parents and family members. The compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share in the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and the parents will build and develop partnerships to help children achieve the state's high standards. The compact shall:

- describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables the children served under this part to meet the challenging state academic standards, and the ways in which each parent will be responsible for supporting their children's learning; volunteering in their child's classroom; and participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and positive use of extracurricular time (*ESSA, Section (d)(1)*);
- address the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum:
 - parent-teacher conferences in elementary schools, at least annually, during which the compact shall be discussed as the compact relates to the individual child's achievement;
 - frequent reports to parents on their children's progress;
 - reasonable access to staff, opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and observation of classroom activities; ensuring regular, two-way, meaningful

communication between family members and school staff, and, to the extent practicable, in a language that family members can understand (*ESSA, Section 1116(d)(2)(A-D)*).

The Whitehall Elementary School provides assistance to parents and family members in understanding the challenging state academic standards, state and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(1)*). Parent-Teacher Conferences occur where teachers are able to share pertinent student information and achievement in a individual meeting setting. Parents have personal access to Skyward and Canvas to access their child(ren)'s learning platform and school information system. Skyward has the ability to translate the information into many different languages, therefore, allowing all families equitable access. All other communications are translated, when a need exists, for families with limited English language abilities.

The Whitehall Elementary School provides materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, including education about the harms of copyright piracy, as appropriate, to foster parent involvement (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(1)*). Learning resources will be shared for students and families to allow for support to be transferred into the homes. Lesson videos, decodable books, practice pages for students to craft their foundational reading skills and other materials will be shared with families by the teachers to create a supportive and fluid learning environment between school and home.

The Whitehall Elementary School educates teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and family members and the school (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(3)*).

Our English as a Second Language (ESL) teachers also share tips and strategies with their colleagues on how to effectively communicate with parents who may have language barriers. The District has contracted with Talking Points and Deaf Talk to streamline the translated communication between home and school through text-based and oral-based translation services.

The Whitehall Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate, and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal, state, and local programs including public preschool programs and conduct other activities that encourage and support parents and family members in more fully participating in the education of their children (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(4)*).

Whitehall Elementary currently educates students in grades two through five. Second grade students transition from our feeder school, McAnnulty Elementary after they have completed both Kindergarten and First Grade. In August, 2022, prior to the start of the school year, a student/family orientation was held in person, as well as offered a virtual option, to all incoming 2nd grade students. During this orientation, teachers were there to meet with parents and students to discuss programs, procedures and curriculum for the school year. All of the presentations were recorded and shared with parents so everyone had an opportunity to access the information.

The Whitehall Elementary School ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents and family members of participating children in a format and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents and family members can understand (*ESSA, Section 1116(6)(e)(5)*).

Information is sent via Class Dojo and translated via Google Translate, Deaf Talk and Talking Points, as well as our translator company. We translate documents into our primary language of Nepali and other prevalent languages in our school to help those who are in need of this service.

The Whitehall Elementary School provides opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children) (*ESSA, Section 1116(7)(f)*) during the following events: School Orientation, Family Fun Nights, Family Bingo and Fifth Grade Recognition will be offered using differentiated options where applicable including in-person and/or virtual. Available options will be communicated to families in advance. The goal at Whitehall Elementary is to embrace our entire school community and offer experiences in person as much as we can, where safe, as well as to connect with our families, students and community members in a strong partnership.

The BWSD will ensure district and school level engagement in other activities and opportunities that the stakeholders and LEA determine are appropriate and consistent with the BWSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Reviewed and/or Revised Date: