TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

STARS recognizes the value of family engagement in a child's academic success and believes that the education of children is an ongoing cooperative partnership between the home and the school. Parents and other family members are their children's first teachers; therefore, the continued involvement of parents and family members in the educational process is most important in fostering and improving educational achievement. STARS educators shall strive to support parents and provide parents and family members with meaningful opportunities to become involved in the programs offered within the school. We encourage parents and family members to participate in the design and implementation of the programs and activities in order to increase the effectiveness of the school's Title I program in helping students meet state and local achievement standards.

A. DEFINITION OF PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

For the purposes of this policy, the term "parent and family engagement" means the participation of parents, guardians, and other family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:
1. that parents and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
2. that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at STARS;
3. that parents are full partners in their child's education and parents and family members are included, as appropriate, in decision making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and
4. that STARS utilizes activities to support parent and family engagement in the Title I programs.

B. PURPOSE AND OPERATION OF TITLE I PROGRAM

The Title I program is a federally supported program that offers assistance to educationally and economically disadvantaged children to help ensure they receive an equitable, high-quality, well-rounded education and meet the STARS' challenging academic standards. The Title I program provides instructional activities and supportive services to eligible students over and above those provided by the regular school program. Qualified Title I schools will operate as school-wide programs or targeted assistance programs based upon federal eligibility criteria. School-wide programs will provide comprehensive support to offer improved opportunities for all students.

C. ANNUAL MEETING AND PROGRAM EVALUATION

Each year, STARS must invite parents of students participating in Title I programs to a meeting to explain parental rights, discuss the programs and activities to be provided with Title I funds, and solicit input on the Title I program and this policy. In addition, school officials must provide parents and family members a meaningful opportunity annually to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Title I programs and the parent and family engagement policies and plans. Information collected from these proceedings will be used to revise Title I programs and parent and family engagement plans.

D. PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EFFORTS

STARS believes that the involvement of Title I parents and family members in the design and implementation of the Title I program will increase the effectiveness of the program and contribute significantly to the success of the children. The Title I staff and all school personnel shall strive to conduct outreach to parents and family members and involve them in activities throughout the school year. The Executive Director shall ensure that our parent and family engagement policy is developed with, agreed upon with, and annually distributed to parents and family members of participating students. In addition the school and parents shall jointly develop and annually distribute to parents and family members a written parent and family engagement plan that describes the means for carrying out this policy, sharing responsibility for student academic achievement, building the capacity of school staff and parents for involvement, and increasing accessibility for participation of all parents and family members of children participating in Title I programs, including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, who have disabilities, or who are migratory. This plan will involve parents in the planning and improvement of Title I activities and must provide for the distribution to parents of information on expected student achievement levels and the school's academic performance. STARS' officials shall invite appropriate school personnel from private schools to consult on the design and development of its programs in order to provide equitable services to students enrolled in private schools. The executive director shall establish any additional procedures necessary to achieve timely and meaningful consultation with private school officials in accordance with federal law.
In addition, STARS personnel shall do the following:
1. involve parents and family members in the joint development of the Title I program and school support and improvement plan and the process of school review and improvement by inviting parents to review the Title I program;
2. coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in the Title I program to the extent feasible and appropriate with parental engagement strategies established in other federal, state, and local laws and programs;
3. with the meaningful involvement of parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the school's parent and family engagement policies and program in improving the academic quality of the school and assisting students to meet the school's academic standards;
4. strive to eliminate barriers to parental participation by assisting parents who have disabilities and parents who are economically disadvantaged, have limited English proficiency, are migratory, or have other backgrounds or characteristics that may affect participation;
5. provide outreach and assistance to parents and family members of children who are participating in Title I programs in understanding the state's testing standards, the assessments used, Title I requirements, and all national, state, and local standards and expectations through such efforts as community-based meetings, posting information on school websites, sending information home, newsletters, workshops, and newspaper articles;
6. design a parent–student–school staff compact that sets out respective responsibilities in striving to raise student achievement and explains how an effective home/school partnership will be developed and maintained;
7. with the assistance of parents, ensure that teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, administrators, and other staff are educated in the value of parents as partners in the educational process and understand how to work with, communicate with, and reach out to parents as equal partners in education;
8. distribute to parents information on expected student proficiency levels for their child and the school's academic performance, and provide materials and training to help parents monitor their child's

progress and work with educators to improve achievement through such methods literacy training or using technology, which may include education about the harms of copyright piracy;
9. coordinate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parental involvement programs and activities with federal, state, and local programs, including public pre-school programs, and conduct other activities in the community that encourage and support parents to more fully participate in the education of their child;
10. strengthen the partnership with agencies, businesses, and programs that operate in the community, especially those with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education;
11. ensure that parents are involved in STARS' Title I activities; and
12. provide such other reasonable support for Title I parental involvement activities as requested by parents.

E. NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

STARS officials and Title I personnel shall provide effective notice of the following information as required by law. The notice must be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
1. Program for English Learners
Each year the executive director, or designee, shall provide notice of the following to parents of limited English proficient (LEP) children identified for participation in a Title I, Part A-funded language-instruction educational program:
a. the reasons for the child's identification;
b. the child's level of English proficiency and how such level was assessed;
c. methods of instruction;
d. how the program will help the child;
e. the exit requirements for the program;
f. if the child has a disability, how the language instruction educational program meets the objectives of the child's individualized educational program (IEP);
g. any other information necessary to effectively inform the parent of the program and the parental rights regarding enrollment, removal, and selection of program for English learners; and
h. notice of regular meetings for the purpose of formulating and responding to recommendations from parents.
2. School Report Card
Each year, STARS shall disseminate to all parents a school report card containing information about the school, including, but not limited to:
a. the following information both in the aggregate and disaggregated by category: student achievement, graduation rates, performance on other school quality and/or student success indicators, the progress of students toward meeting long-term goals established by the state, student performance on measures of school climate and safety, and, as available, the rate of enrollment in post-secondary education;
b. the performance of the school's academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole and the performance of the school's academic assessments as compared to the state as a whole;
c. the percentage and number of students who are:
i. assessed,
ii. assessed using alternate assessments,
iii. involved in preschool and accelerated coursework programs, and
iv. English learners achieving proficiency;
d. the per pupil expenditures of federal, state, and local funds; and

e. teacher qualifications.
3. Teacher Qualifications
a. At the beginning of each year, STARS officials shall notify parents of students who are participating in Title I programs of the right to request certain information on the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child.
b. The executive director, or designee, of STARS shall provide timely notice informing parents that their student has been assigned to or has been taught for at least four consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification or licensure requirements at the grade level or subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.
4. Parental Rights and Opportunities for Involvement
a. Each year, the executive director, or designee, of STARS shall provide notice to parents of the school's written parent and family engagement policy, parents' right to be involved in their child's school, and opportunities for parents and family members to be involved at STARS.
b. Each year, the executive director, or designee of STARS shall provide notice to parents of their right to request information regarding student participation in state-required assessments.

F. WEBSITE DISTRIBUTION OF INFORMATION

Each year, STARS shall publicize on the school's website:
1. the report card described above; and
2. information on each assessment required by the state and, where feasible, organized by grade level. The information must include:
a. the subject matter assessed;
b. the purpose for which the assessment is designed and used;
c. the source of the requirement for the assessment;
d. if available, the amount of time students will spend taking the assessments and the schedule of the assessments; and
e. if available, the time and format for distributing results.
The executive director shall develop any administrative procedures necessary to implement the requirements of this policy.