



Watkins Early Childhood Center
Title I Family Engagement Policy
2016-2017



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At Watkins Early Childhood Center, a Title 1 pre-school, parents and community members are welcomed and encouraged to participate in various activities and engagement options. We believe that active parent/community engagement is essential to ensure student academic success. One of our main focuses is for families to understand the state academic standards and how their students are assessed on these. The following is a list of opportunities/activities for our school:

- Watkins ECC staff will work in partnership with parents to engage them in their child's academic and social development. Some examples are: Family Book Clubs, Family Literacy Nights, Transition to Kindergarten, and ESL Programs as well as conferences and community events such as Parent Academy.
- Every year Watkins ECC will have at least 5 family activities that will be held in both the school and the greater community. When appropriate community organizations, such as faith based, private and city organizations will partner with us to provide these services. These activities will focus on various learning areas such as: reading, writing, and math. At times, students will attend with their parents. Parents will receive helpful learning tips and activities to assist their children to succeed in school.
- A newsletter will be provided monthly to inform parents of all school and district initiatives that are affecting their child's education. This focus will allow parents to be knowledgeable about what they see their child doing.
- Our Lead Team meets weekly and the Action Team for Parents (ATP) will meet First Friday of each month at 8:15 am in the library. The purpose of the Lead Team is to improve the excellence of teaching and learning in the school, so that the greatest number of students achieve proficiency in the core academic subjects of reading and mathematics. The purpose of the ATP Team is to serve as the foundation for actively engaging the school's greater community in designing learning goals and innovative projects which enhance the educational experiences of our students.



- An invitation for family engagement will be offered by the school staff and the Family Engagement Specialist during Orientation, Back to School Night (Thursday, August 18 and Thursday, September 22), the Annual Title I Meeting, as well as throughout the school year. The meetings will be held at flexible times to encourage parent and community engagement. Transportation will be provided when necessary.
- We provide translations, interpreters, and Language Line services to assist parents with understanding the information related to school programs and parent meetings.



- Watkins ECC staff is available to communicate with parents through various methods, including school and class newsletters, notes home, phone calls to parents, a minimum of twice yearly conferences, home visits and email. Parents are invited to provide input and assist in making decisions regarding their child's education.
- During our Annual Title I Meeting parents are provided with information regarding the services offered by Title I.
- Parents are invited to attend a Kindergarten Transition workshop. This workshop is designed to introduce families to the next step of their child's academic development and answer any questions or concerns that they may have.
- Parents will participate in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parental engagement program. The evaluation will include an assessment of how engagement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome.
- Each individual classroom has its own method of utilizing parent support depending on the needs of that particular classroom. Parent/Community volunteers are welcomed to participate in the volunteer program at Watkins ECC.



Watkins Early Childhood Center is a School-wide Title 1 School

What is Title I?

Title I is a Federal program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). Title I is the funding source from ESEA. It provides money to states and school districts to meet the needs of educationally at-risk students. Title I funds must be used in schools with the highest concentration of students from low income families. Title I reaches about 21 million students in public and private schools throughout the United States. (In December of 2015, President Obama signed the ESSA which reauthorizes ESEA and replaces No Child Left Behind. The 2016 – 2017 year is a year of transition. All this law encompasses will go into effect for the 2017 – 2018 school year.)

One of the Family Engagement Requirements for a Title I School is: Each district that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop a written parental engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental engagement. The district policy must be developed jointly with, and agreed upon with, the parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs and dis-

This policy was adopted by **Watkins Early Childhood Center** on October 10, 2016 and will be in effect for the period of **the 2016-17 school year**. The school will display this policy in a visible location which will allow all parents of participating Title I, Part A children to view it on or before October 30, 2016. The school will provide copies to each parent of a child participating in a Title I, Part A program. An additional copy will be located in the school office and library.

Sue Waxman

(Signature of Authorized Official)

October 30, 2016

(Date)

Contributed to Policy:

Newport News Public Schools Family Engagement Specialists,

Watkins Early Childhood Center Leadership Team

Please provide written comments to your school's Family Engagement Specialist

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