



Bridgewater - Emery School District 30-3



Kim Aman, Elementary Principal
Christena Schultz, Secondary Principal

Jason Bailey, Superintendent
Lori Jansen, Business Manager

Bridgewater Emery School District 30-3 **Title I **District** Parent and Family Engagement Policy** **ESSA - Every Student Succeeds Act** **2018-2019**

Part I:

Bridgewater Emery School District strives to establish meaningful relationships with our students, families, and members in our Bridgewater and Emery communities to ensure student success. Bridgewater Emery School District's written Parent and Family Engagement Policy establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement. This is driven by Bridgewater Emery School District's vision: "Empowering all students to succeed in an ever-changing world."

- a. Bridgewater Emery School District will put programs, activities, and procedures into operation which involve parents at the K-5 Elementary site with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- b. Bridgewater Emery School District 30-3 will work with the K-5 Elementary site in Bridgewater to ensure that the required School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy meets the requirements of ESSA, which includes a School-Parent Compact.
- c. Bridgewater School District incorporated the same strategies in both the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy and its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan.
- d. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, Bridgewater Emery School District and the K-5 Elementary site will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in an understandable language and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request. We work closely with our Title III & Migrant Consortia to ensure we are meeting the needs of all students.

Part II

1. Bridgewater Emery School District will take the following actions to describe how the district will incorporate the following components to involve families in the education of their child.

Bridgewater Emery School District will involve parents in the joint development of its District Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

- a. Involving parents will be accomplished through an annual meeting by an Action Team consisting of parents, teachers, administrators, community members, and school board members. The Action Team will create, review, and revise the policy. The school will explain a parent's right to be involved, and parents will be asked to provide direction and advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.



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- b. Bridgewater Emery School District will work with staff to develop strategies to engage families in learning how they can help their children at home to be successful at school. In addition, families will receive information on the Common Core Standards and the assessments used, such as the SBAC, to measure progress towards meeting these standards. Bridgewater Emery School will ensure parents and teachers have ample opportunity to discuss the importance of regular attendance and how good attendance can improve student success throughout the student's K-12 education. Parents have suggested the school should send regular attendance letters home to update parents periodically on student attendance.

2. Bridgewater Emery School District in collaboration with the individual K-5 site, principal, designated parents and teachers, will establish objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement.

- a. The committee is comprised of administrators, teachers, and parents of children in Title I, Part A school-wide schools. We added our secretary for the 2018-2019 year.
- b. One of Bridgewater Emery School District's most important objectives is to increase meaningful communication between school and home/parents. The school will track the number of times staff reach out to parents for a variety of reasons using a monthly Communication Log, and in addition, will encourage staff to add one additional communication via text, email, letter, or phone call home as often as possible. Section 4 on Communication in the SD Toolkit for Parent and Family Engagement will be used as a resource.

3. Bridgewater Emery School District will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist the K-5 Bridgewater Title I school in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

- a. The school provides ongoing strategies and tips on involving parents in the entire process of educating their children which includes regular attendance focus.
- b. We will regularly invite parents and community members into our schools to assist teachers and students with classroom activities during the day, Fun Nights in the evenings, and programs held after school such as Girls on the Run activities where many of our parents serve as coaches on character development, etc.
- c. Parents will be encouraged to be chaperones on field trips as well as come in to the school for Mother's Day/Father's Day Readers' Theatre programs.
- d. BE School hosts an annual Back-to-School / Open House night two days before school starts to bring parents, teachers, and students together in anticipation of a great start to a new school year.
- e. Parents are invited to attend Parent/Teacher Conference nights during the school year. During these events, various meeting times are scheduled so parents can attend these meetings to discuss their child's education and be part of the decision-making process when reviewing what works with their child and what communication areas could be improved between home and school.
- f. Food will be provided at our events as a way to encourage parents to attend meetings as well as transportation and daycare services on an as needed basis.

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- g. BE School regularly provides written resources, information, individual family support and training based on identified, individual needs of each family.
- h. BE Student Boosters is a parent/teacher group established to support home and school involvement for the high school, and a new group for elementary parents will be started during the 2018-2019 year, requested by parents.
- i. DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS are sent to parents every morning by 10:00 A.M.
- j. Parents are encouraged to communicate with via texting, e-mails, Shutterfly website interactions, and Class Dojo Apps where messages and photos are sent to parents to let them know what is going on in the school.
- k. HOMECOMING activities are heavily promoted with a community picnic and parade to involve the entire community, and especially parents.
- l. The school will provide newsletters to parents which offer tips to families to help their child in the home setting.
- m. Teachers organize a Family Engagement Night in Title I, Part A schools, generally at Christmas for maximum attendance, which involve sharing information with parents and participating in an educational activity with their child.
- n. Teachers personally contact parents to discuss the student and how to better meet each child's individual needs through notes home of some kind or phone calls.
- o. Parents are offered free parenting resources as needed and can check out materials from our library.
- p. Parents may hold positions on committees to better understand the South Dakota Common Core Standards and how they work with the school to raise the achievement of their child and monitor their child's progress.
- q. School building staff give parents directives on how to access their children's information on the Infinite Campus Program.
- r. A new character education program will be implemented this school year called Cloud 9 World. Home and School Connection activities will be sent home for parents. Root beer float parties will be awarded to the class with the most parent participation.

4. Bridgewater Emery School District will build the school and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement and will support a partnership among the school involved, its parents, and the community to develop strategies to support successful school and family interactions that ultimately improves student academic achievement.

The Elementary Principal will be the key contact for parent and family engagement at the Bridgewater Emery School District, and on a regular basis, will ask families, students, and staff what's important to them by brainstorming proposed ideas at special meetings held at staff meetings and at lunch with students. The principal will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, to foster parental involvement by:



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- a. Many teachers at Bridgewater Emery School District utilize individual websites and social media applications, such as Dojo, to allow parents to gain help in their student's area of need as well as communicate efficiently with the teacher.
- b. Our Title III & Migrant Consortia provide training to our staff on EL strategies, and parents are also invited to attend and receive handouts if applicable to their situation.
- c. Intervention teachers provide supplemental activities to parents through websites, monthly newsletters, brochures, and the lending of books.
- d. Individual assistance is provided to parents on Infinite Campus which allows them to assess and monitor their child's progress, grades and attendance.
- e. Brochures and technical guides are available to parents from various sources such as the SD Parent Connection, Department of Education, and purchased ones from assorted companies.
- f. Information will be provided to parents on our new Love and Logic techniques implemented at the K-5 site and the new Boys Town Behavioral Intervention Support implemented at the 6-12 site for the first time during the 2017-2018 school year.
- g. Parents are informed of their child's local and state assessment results; i.e. Smarter Balance and given guides on how to read and interpret the scores.
- h. Bridgewater Emery School District hopes to hire a full-time school counselor as part of our AWARE grant awarded to our district for the next five years.
- i. Parents are provided with information regarding Targeted Assistance services and the requirements set forth by the school district.
- j. Bridgewater Emery School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Sped preschool, Head Start, home instruction programs for preschool youngsters, public preschool and community daycares, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource displays, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

5. Bridgewater Emery School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family involvement strategies under Title I to the extent feasible and appropriate with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring the following:

- a. Parents are welcome and invited to submit comments to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy at any time and are encouraged to contact the principal.
- b. The Bridgewater Emery School District will put in to place meetings, programs, activities, to involve and engage parent and family members in the learning and development of their children.
- c. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school and will be notified when meetings are held to discuss parental involvement.

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- d. Families will be surveyed and this information used to develop new strategies and objectives.
- e. Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making process on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child
- f. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in ESSA.
- g. Love & Logic training will be provided for staff and parents to implement effective discipline and classroom management strategies so the family and the school can present a united front to the students, in hopes to increase communication and to develop relationships between home and school
- h. Communication between home and school will be a top priority at the K-5 site in Bridgewater. Staff will brainstorm unique and consistent ways to communicate with parents on a regular basis.
- i. Discussions will be held at staff meetings to help teachers reach out to families and on the importance and value of parent and family engagement.
- j. Letters will be sent home to parents explain the importance of regular attendance, and parents will be kept informed on how many days their children have missed.
- k. Guided tours are encouraged and provided to all new parents, and parents are invited to eat breakfast and lunch with their children on a regular basis.
- l. All K-5 students are encouraged to read 20 minutes in the evening with their families. Written justification for this will be sent out regularly so parents can understand the importance of reading with their children.
- m. Our Head Start is located in our building will meet with the principal and the local daycares in Bridgewater and in Emery to ensure a smooth transition of records as well as academic expectations for all students, and through these meetings, parental involvement will be a top priority. We do not have a Sped Preschool this school year.



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6. Bridgewater Emery School District, with the help of the Action Team, will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of the school served under Title I. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). Bridgewater Emery School District will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design evidence based strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, its parental involvement programs.

- a. Annually, parents of children in Title I, Part A schools complete a survey based on their beliefs of the effectiveness of the Targeted Assistance Title I program. Questions such as, "Do you think the plan is effective in improving the academic quality of the K-5 school served under the program and what barriers kept you from participating in the family activities offered by school and the district?" are asked and reflected upon. The Elementary site conducts an annual Title I Parent Meeting which gives the parents an opportunity to share concerns, comments, positive attributes, and areas of needed adjustment in the Title I program. Parents are asked if they feel the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School Level Parent Involvement Policy with the Parent Compact, as well as other policies are appropriate or need changes. The answers impact planning for the future of the Title I programs.
- b. Bridgewater Emery School District welcomes feedback from parents and community members. Parents and community members are given the opportunity to respond to district programs by attending scheduled district meetings such as school board meetings, curriculum review meetings held after school.

7. Bridgewater Emery School District will involve parents in the activities at the school served under the Title I program.

Bridgewater Emery School District will ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in language the parents can understand. Bridgewater Emery School intends to create a safe and welcoming environment where families feel welcome at school. Parents are encouraged to be valuable partners in their child's education.



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- a. Parents are informed of upcoming activities through newsletters, letters sent home, personal telephone communication, text messages, School Messenger, emails, the district website and posting information at community facilities.
- b. Parents and teachers attend training together when appropriate through school hosted workshops or workshops held in Mitchell or Sioux Falls which enhances the involvement of other parents. The district pays reasonable and necessary expenses associated with these activities, including transportation, to enable parents to participate in training sessions.
- c. In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education, school meetings are arranged at a variety of times for parents to be able to attend necessary conferences and functions.
- d. The district County Health Nurse sometimes helps with special trainings.
- e. The information that is disseminated to parents is written in easy to understand vocabulary/terminology. The information is comprehensive and uses little educational jargon. In addition, materials may be translated into the parent's native language.

Part III

Discretionary District Parental Involvement Policy Components

Bridgewater Emery School District 30-3 has not identified any other discretionary components with this 2018-2019 Title I District Parent and Family Engagement Policy ESSA.

Part IV

Adoption of District Policy

This Title I District Parent and Family Engagement Policy ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year. Bridgewater Emery School District will post this plan on the district's website, keep a hard copy in the district office, and distribute it to all parents of students served in a program supported with Title I funds.



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