

Aitkin Public Schools

Family Engagement Policy

2025-2026

ISD 1 Mission Statement

To inspire and prepare our students with the tools and skills to succeed in an ever-changing world.

ISD1 Guiding Principles

- *We believe in academic excellence for all.*
- *We believe compassionate and curious minds are developed when students are engaged socially, emotionally, academically, and physically.*
- *We believe building caring relationships with students and families are the foundation for successful schools and communities.*
- *We believe in individualized and innovative educational experiences.*

Aitkin Public Schools is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Part I. District Expectations

Aitkin Public Schools agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. Aitkin Public Schools will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I programs. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Aitkin Public Schools, consistent with section 1116, will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies of our schools meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Aitkin Public Schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background 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 language parents understand.
4. If the Aitkin Public Schools plan for Title I, Part A found in the State Educational Record View and Submission (SERVS), developed under section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to Minnesota Department of Education.
5. The school district with a Title I, Part A allocation of over \$500,000, will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds

reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

6. The school district will be governed by the following definition of the term “parent” includes legal guardian or other person standing in place of a parent (such as a grandparent or stepparent with whom the child lives, or a person who is legally responsible for the child’s welfare).
7. Parental Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - a. that parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;
 - b. that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;
 - c. that parents 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;
 - d. that other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA.

Part II. District Parent Involvement Plan Required Components

1. Aitkin Public Schools will engage parents and families in the joint development/revision of its district parent involvement plan:
 - a. Annual fall presentations provide parents to review the Title I program, parent involvement plans, parent compacts and provide input.
 - b. A survey will be available to families to provide input throughout the school year.
 - c. A copy of the district plan will be available to parents of Title I students for their parent meetings and parent-teacher conferences.
 - d. Parents will be invited to attend our SLT team meetings to review our goals and revise family engagement plans at each school.
 - e. Parent-teacher conferences throughout the year will be held to provide information and gather feedback.
 - f. Parents are asked to share feedback about the Title I program throughout the school year with the classroom teacher or intervention staff. This feedback may be in oral or written form.
2. Aitkin Public Schools will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Each building provides the following support for parents:
 - a. Infinite Campus Parent Portal (access for parents to district data system and student grades/assignments/attendance etc.)
 - b. Teachers provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment. Teachers communicate with families throughout the year to support students’ success within the classroom.
 - c. Staff send regular newsletters and emails to families, highlighting resources and games that families can have access to for math/literacy concepts.
 - d. The district website provides parents with websites, free iPad apps, and a variety of materials to practice concepts at home.
 - e. Staff attend professional development at Sourcewell during the school year.
 - f. Family Fun Nights and Parent Literacy Nights are planned to give families opportunities to engage in activities to help support their children.
 - g. Parent-teacher conferences are held multiple times throughout the year at all buildings.

3. Aitkin Public Schools will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance.
 - a. Family education programs are provided to families
 - b. Full day preschool programs are offered to families
 - c. Kindergarten transition classes, as well as registration activities happen each spring.
 - d. There are parent advisory meetings throughout the school year.
 - e. Monthly newsletters and communication are sent out to families throughout the school year.
 - f. Kindercamp is offered as a transitional activity for students.
 - g. School leadership teams meet to discuss parent survey results and add input into engagement strategies for the following school year.
 - h. Each school will develop, in conjunction with parents, a Parent-School compact.

4. Aitkin Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of Title I students and the schools.

Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs:

- a. Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members that keep them participating in their child’s education especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.
- b. Identify the needs of the Title I parents and family members to assist learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
- c. Identify strategies to support successful school and family interactions.

Activity	Date	Contact Person
Feedback Survey	March 2026	Tara Proctor 218-927-4838
Annual Title I Meeting	October 2025	Andy Dokken/Rippleside Elementary Principal 218-927-4838X2106
American Indian Council	September 2025-May 2026	Andy Dokken/Rippleside Elementary Principal 218-927-4838X2106
Various parent advisory council meetings	September 2025-May 2026	Tara Proctor 218-927-4838
Building Leadership Team Meetings	September 2025-May 2026	Building Principals Andy Dokken-Rippleside Lisa Demars-ALC/High School

6. Aitkin Public Schools will use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement as necessary and to revise the parent and family engagement policy as necessary.

- a. Various parent advisory council meetings-the Parent and Family Engagement Policies are evaluated and revised for the following school year in March.
- b. Title I Network monthly meetings at Sourcewell.
- c. MDE: Parent and Family Engagement workshops
- d. Parent surveys

7. Aitkin Public Schools will involve parents in activities at our schools. This could be establishing a parent advisory board that represents the population of Title I parents and family members, that develops, evaluates and reviews or revises the parent and family engagement policy.

- a. Various parent advisory council meetings
- b. Parent surveys
- c. Family Fun Nights
- d. Parent Literacy Nights
- e. Annual Title I meeting

8. Aitkin Public Schools will actively engage families, parents, guardians, teachers, school leaders, paraprofessionals, instructional support personnel, district leaders and other appropriate partners in the joint development of the ESEA consolidated grant application.

- a. School leadership team meetings
- b. Various parent advisory council meetings
- c. Parent survey results
- d. Feedback from staff or parents throughout the school year
- e. District level leadership meetings

9. Aitkin Public Schools will involve parents in the planning and review of the school improvement plan and the joint development of the schoolwide plan and targeted assistance plan when applicable. If the schoolwide plan is not satisfactory to the parents, submit comments on the plan when submitted to the district. (Section 1111 (b)).

- a. Various parent advisory council meetings
- b. School leadership team meetings, including the comprehensive needs assessment meeting held in summer of 2026.
- c. Parent survey results