

# Section 1 Getting Started

## SD Toolkit for Engaging Parents and Families

Parent and family engagement is not a new concept or idea. They play a variety of roles in their child's education - as encouragers of learning, building resolve and determinations, and advocating for the education of their child. Parent and family engagement also plays a critical role in student success and achievement.

### Family Friendly Walk Through

The Family Friendly Walk Through (FFWT) is a tool designed by the SD Department of Education to provide schools the opportunity to identify strategies and ideas that will make the school more inviting and welcoming to families and community members.

#### **Tools needed to conduct the Family Friendly Walk Through**

Family/Educator Surveys ([Please email DawnL.Smith@state.sd.us](mailto:DawnL.Smith@state.sd.us) to request survey information.)

#### **Participant instruction for FFWT**

Participant Instructions (to share with team members prior to starting actual Walk Through)

#### **Family Friendly Walk Through Checklists**

Family Friendly Walk Through Checklists

- Physical Environment
- Schoolwide Practices
- Communication and Learning Connections
- Written Materials and Technology

#### **Principal/Facilitator Information**

Information for Principals/Facilitators on how to conduct a FFWT

#### **Report form for FFWT**

Family Friendly Walk Through Report Form

## Vision and Mission Statements

[Click here for resources and examples of vision and mission statements](#)

Developing the school's vision and mission are two of the most important steps toward creating a successful program. Done well, they give clarity and direction for a school.

[Click here for help in creating mission statements that work](#)

This site has guidelines written by Suzanne Bond. The guidelines are very helpful and practical when establishing a meaningful mission statement.

***One of the most important responsibilities of any leader is establishing a vision and inviting others to share in its development.***

[Click here for useful information on vision/mission statements for your school](#)

Ascd.org site has good and helpful information on how to write a mission and vision statement for your school.

[Click here for steps on how to create a mission/vision statement based on the goals of your school](#)

Vision and mission statements provide schools with an overview of where they want to go and what they want to be. Vision and mission statements establish clear expectations and standards for the whole school community, and help the school reach common goals.

[Click here for Vision/Mission examples](#)

Definition of Vision/Mission Statements. It has examples of both vision and mission statements and tells the difference between the two.

[Click here for a youtube video explaining the steps in writing a school mission statement](#)

This is a 3:41 video that explains how to write a mission statement and how to make it great. It also has other short videos that explain the steps and "Power Words" that help the mission statement have more impact.

[Click here for tips on keeping your mission statement alive](#)

How can you make your mission statement more meaningful? Bring it into the classroom and give it vision! Included: Tips for keeping the mission statement alive once it's written.



Iroquois School District Superintendent Mike Ruth, has written their district’s mission statement in both English and Spanish for their school website.

An example of a school vision/mission statement:

School Vision and Mission Statements for (Insert Your School Name)
VISION:
(    ) School will equip students with skills needed to be successful in a global community and to prepare our students to be college and career ready.
MISSION:
(    ) School will partner with family and community to prepare students for lifelong learning by rigorously challenging each student through the use of technology, as well as innovative and diverse teaching strategies.
DESCRIBE THE PROCESS BY WHICH THE VISION AND MISSION STATEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED OR VALIDATED:
The school vision and mission statements were approved during the (insert Year) academic year, after obtaining input from all stakeholders. An agreement was reached to continue with our current vision and mission statements at that time. Following approval, the vision and mission statements were posted around the building and presented to a broad group of stakeholders (parents, educators, administrators, community members, business owners).

## District/School Policies and Compacts

All school districts that receive Title I funds are required to have a district level policy and each school that serves children under Title I must develop a school level policy and compact for parent and family engagement. This requirement comes from Elementary and Secondary Education Act, newly revised as Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116.

### **Title I District Parent and Family Engagement Policy - ESSA Guidelines**

Information for developing Title I District Policy

### **Tips for Developing the District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Information for developing Title I School Policy

### **School Parent and Family Engagement Policy Checklist**

Information for developing Title I School Policy

### **Tool for developing School Level Policy**

Information for developing Title I School Policy

### **Tool for developing school-parent compact 2017**

Tool and guidance for development of compact.

### **School -Parent Compact for Reading**

Information on requirements for school-parent compact.

### **Blank Template for Grade Level Compact**

A front/back flyer template that can be used for developing a grade level compact.

Beyond the Bake Sale Pg. 198-199 (Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies) These two pages consist of information concerning the Title I requirements in School/Family Compacts or Agreements. It contains a list of Compact DOS and DON'Ts.

### **[Connecticut's guide to Developing Compacts](#)**

Connecticut has been a leader in the development of grade level compacts. Follow the above link and there are a series of videos and resources related to developing compacts.

### **Scaling up Family Engagement**

A review of this will show where your schools is as it pertains to parent and family engagement.

**How well does your district support Family and Community Engagement** -A survey that can be done by both educators and parents

### **[Using surveys to Build Connections with Families](#)**

Surveys for parent volunteers, post interim progress reports, post report card, and end of year parent surveys.

### **[Parent Surveys](#)**

SurveyMonkey and Harvard Graduate School of Education collaborated to design surveys that ask questions that can be used to assess the school/home collaboration.

### **[Click here to register for Teachers Pay Teachers](#)**

**<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/Terms-of-Service>**

Within the toolkit are multiple links to the Teachers pay Teachers website. Teachers pay Teachers (TPT) is a website designed by and used by teachers. In order to access the tools and resources you need to register. A small fee is charged for some of the resources and some are

free. The following link will take you to the registration form and terms of service.

Below are some TPT surveys for you to review.

[Parent involvement survey](#)

[Parent-Questionnaire](#)