What's in ESSA for parents?

The most important thing to know is that the major requirements of districts and schools to engage parents and families are the same in the new law, including:

Each PUSD Title I school must offer programs and activities to involve parents and family members, and seek meaningful consultation with parents.

- Develop with parents a written parent and family engagement policy
- Build the schools' capacity to engage families
- Evaluate its family engagement policy and practices, with meaningful input from families
- Involve families in the activities of Title I schools
- Reserve **at least** 1% of its Title I funds to support parent and family engagement activities, involving parents in deciding how to use these funds.
- Develop with parents a written policy, agreed upon by parents, that describes how the school will carry out its required family engagement activities
- Hold an annual meeting for families to explain the program and the rights of parents to be involved and offer other meetings, at flexible times
- Develop a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, students, and school staff will share the responsibility for improving student achievement, and that describes how parents and teachers will communicate.

PUSD and Title I schools must build capacity for involvement by:
- Offer assistance to parents in understanding the education system and the state standards, and how to support their children's achievement
- Provide materials and training to help parents work with their children
- Educate teachers and other school staff, including school leaders, in how to engage families effectively
- Coordinate with other federal and state programs, including preschool programs
- Give parents information in a format and language they can understand
- Provide reasonable support that parents may request

If you are interested in participating in the planning and evaluation of the Title I program at your school, please submit your name to your child's teacher or to the principal.

9/8/2023