

# Moving Past Title I Compliance: Strategies to Engage Families

**ESSA Academy**

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**SOUTH CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

# Agenda

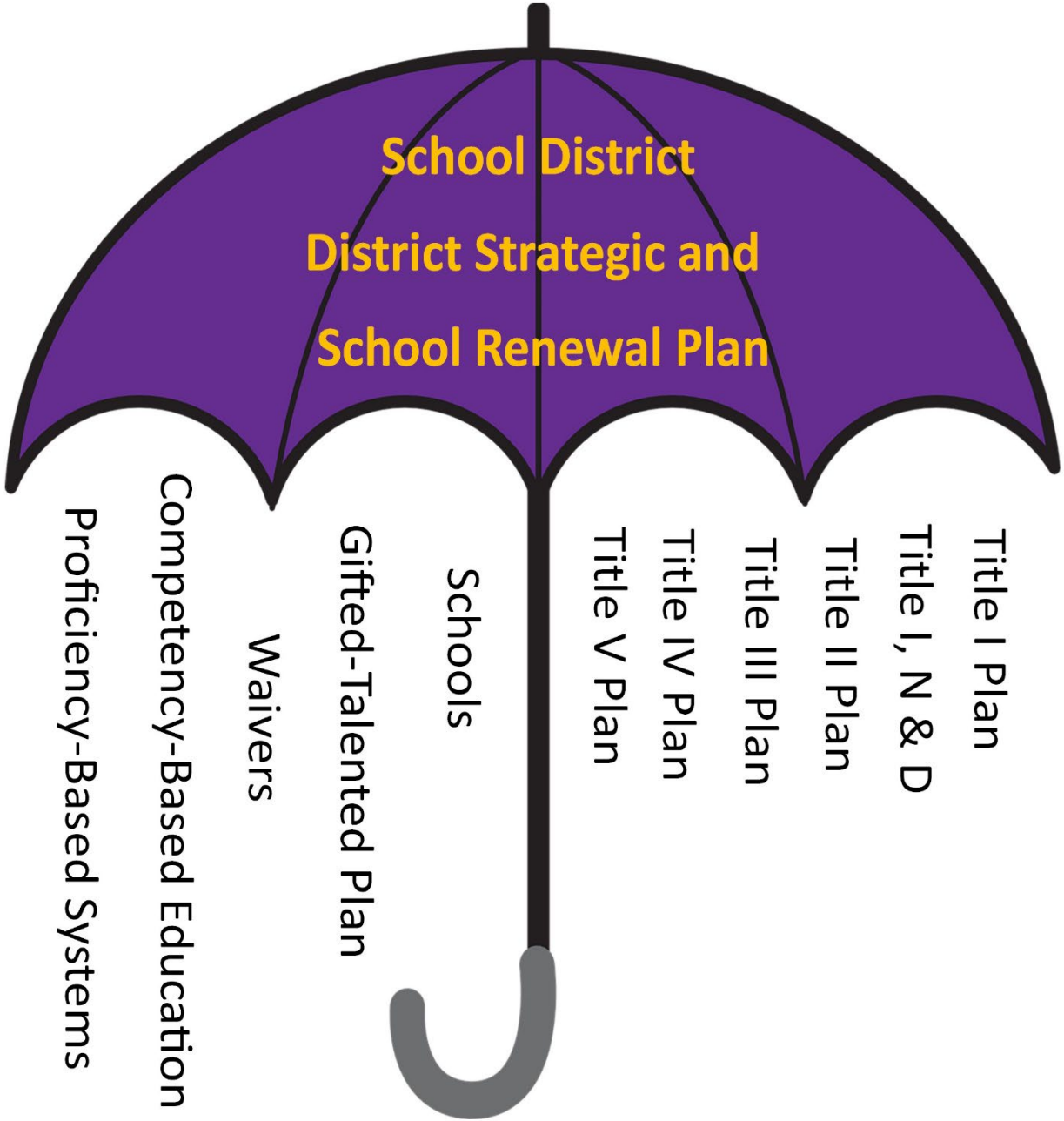
**1 What Does ESSA Say?**

**2 Pushing Past Compliance**



# School District

The school district is the responsible for the entire school system. All parts of the school system report the school district. All parts support the function of the school district.



# What Does ESSA Say?

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Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the school parent and family engagement policy and joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

***ESSA Sections 1114, 1116.***

Evidence of plan review process with families and parents playing an active participant role



# What Does the South Carolina State Law Say?

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The State Law outlines that each local board of trustees will establish an improvement council at each school within the district.

S.C. Code Ann. § 59-20-60(6)

- Council is to include at least 2 parents, 2 teachers, 2 students (high school), and representatives of the community
- Council shall assist in the preparation of the Strategic Renewal Plan
- Council shall provide advice on the use of school grants



# Connect the Dots

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- If the Title Plan(s) is developed in collaboration with parents...
- If the Strategic Renewal Plan is developed in collaboration with parents...
- If the SIC provides advice on the use of Title funds and the Strategic Renewal Plan...

Why can't these plans be developed and approved by the same group of stakeholders?





# Pushing Past Compliance

- Combine the two committees into one
  - Active parents appreciate the efficiency
  - Actively recruit your parents
    - Parents are honored that you asked them personally
- Document the meeting agenda, minutes, and sign-in sheets to include both the SIC and Title I meeting.
  - Be detailed in the minutes to show that Title I was discussed
    - Example: Provided updates on Title I expenditures, provided updates on the action steps in the Title I plan, reviewed or edited Parent/Engagement Policy and Family Compact
  - Place the plan on your school/district website for comments



# What Does ESSA Say?

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The LEA provides strategies to increase the involvement of parents.

**ESSA Section 1115.**

- Meeting minutes and sign-in sheets
- Survey results where barriers to greater participation are identified





# Pushing Past Compliance

- Review attendance sheets
  - Did you get the parents you were aiming for?
  - Survey the parents after the event
    - Feedback for next event or other information to be provided
- Combine with other events
  - Schools
  - Performances
  - Think outside the box
    - Different times, locations



# What Does ESSA Say?

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Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, including the school parent and family engagement policy and joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

**ESSA Sections 1114, 1116.**

- Evidence of plan review process with families and parents playing an active participant role
- Evidence of dissemination to families and communities



# Pushing Past Compliance

- Place the plan on your school/district website for comment
  - Link it to your social media
- Survey
  - At the beginning and end of the school year
- Back to school events
- Disseminate
  - The plan must be in their home language and a mode the parents will see
    - Home language extends beyond Spanish
  - Email blasts, social media, school website, text messaging, paper copies
    - Consider sending the information with other important papers, not just in isolation.
    - Consider Bright Arrow
    - How can you avoid putting the information in the students' hands?



# What Does ESSA Say?

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The LEA family engagement policy is developed and agreed upon by families/ parents and distributed to all families/parents. The policy must describe how the LEA will:

- Develop a Title I Plan, that is reviewed annually, and includes evidence-based strategies
- Build capacity to improve academic achievement
- Coordinate with other programs

**ESSA Section 1116(a).**

- Evidence of annual review with family/parent engagement such as: notifications of meetings, list of attendees, minutes of meetings, agendas, and parent comments
- Evidence that the policy is distributed to parents



# Pushing Past Compliance

- Quality of documentation
- Place the plan on your school/district website for comment
  - Link it to your social media
- Survey results
- Disseminate
  - The plan must be in their home language and a mode the parents will see
  - Email blasts, social media, school website, text messaging, paper copies
    - How can you avoid putting the information in the students' hands?



# What Does ESSA Say?

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The LEA ensures that each participating school provides to individual families/parents information on the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the state's academic assessments as required.

**ESSA Section 1112(e)(1)(B)(ii).**

Dated cover letter sent with the report OR a Parent Brochure and Report



# Pushing Past Compliance

- Report to the People
- Home language
- Student-led conferences
- Parent-friendly academic links on the school website
- Parent-Friendly Standards
- Parent Academic Night or Parent Academy
  - How can you help your student at home?





# What Does ESSA Say?

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An annual meeting is convened to which all parents of students in a schoolwide program and participating students in a targeted assistance program are invited to inform parents of their school's participation in Title I and to explain Title I requirements and the right of parents to be involved.

**ESSA Section 1116(c).**

List of attendees minutes of meetings, agendas, and parent comments



# Pushing Past Compliance

- Quality of documentation
- Combine with other events
  - Performances
  - Back to school night
  - Frequent check-ins at parent events
- Post on the school/district website
- Email blasts, newsletters



# What Does ESSA Say?

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Assistance, materials, and training have been provided specifically to Title I-A families to help build capacity for their engagement.

**ESSA Section 1116(e)(2).**

- Description and timeline of activities including copies of materials, training agendas, sign-in sheets, etc.
- Evidence that schools provide assistance to families/ parents in understanding content and achievement standards, assessments, and how to monitor their child's progress
- Evidence that parents and families are provided materials and training to help their children succeed in school, such as literacy training and using technology



# Pushing Past Compliance

- Quality of documentation
- At-home resources
- Parent resource centers
- Parent events (tied to academics)
  - Family Nights
  - Parent Academies
  - Resources on the website



# What Does ESSA Say?

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LEAs are required to provide or strengthen and increase parent, family, and community engagement in programs that serve MLs using Title III funds.

**ESSA Section 3111(b)(2)(D)(iv).**

- Evidence of outreach invitations (e.g. copies of call logs, home visits, invitations, flyers)
- Signed attendance sheets with parents of English Learners clearly identified/highlighted
- Meeting agenda and minutes
- Evidence of the implementation of before/after school programs:



# Pushing Past Compliance

- Notifications in the home language
- Provide translators
  - Yes, this can be paid for out of Title I
- Out of the box family events
  - Multi-cultural family night
  - Hold community events
  - Multi-language registration events
- Relationships, relationships, relationships



# Questions





# Staffing/Organizational Chart

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**C.R. Hall**  
**Team Lead**  
**Innovation & Support Team**



**Leslie Bloss**  
**Education Associate**  
**Consolidated Application & Finance Team**



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