



Rabun County School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2018–2019
Revised 8/8/18
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About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the district receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the system expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the system will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school’s plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The district agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its 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 a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, 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 the state Department of Education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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.
- (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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

The district will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- The plan is posted on the school and district website with a feedback form.
- At least two meetings at each Title 1 school are held in the spring to solicit parent input.
- In the spring, the plan is displayed at the board of education and parents are invited to review and discuss the plan as part of the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).
- Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments.

Technical Assistance

The Federal Programs Director, along with the school Family Engagement Specialist will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the Family Engagement Specialist to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. The Federal Programs Director and Family Engagement Specialist will hold meetings and trainings as needed to review family engagement plans and activities (Math Night, Science Night, etc.).

Annual Evaluation

The district 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 its Title I, Part A schools.

- A minimum of two parent input meetings in the spring at each Title I School.
- Parent surveys sent home in the spring.
- Have feedback forms available in the Family Resource Room at each school.

The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Reservation of Funds

The district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools (currently RCPS and RCES) in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities.

In the spring, each Title I school will hold a minimum of two parent input meetings during which reservation of funds will be a topic of discussion.

Each Title I school will send out surveys in the spring for parents to provide suggestions how these parental family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level.

Parent input and survey results will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

Adoption

This family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. This plan was revised by the Rabun County School District on 8-8-18 and will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year. The school district will make this policy available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2018.

Building Capacity of Parents

The district, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on a variety of topics such as (but not limited to)

- Georgia Standards of Excellence
- Georgia Milestones
- Title I, Part A requirements
- How to monitor a child's progress
- How to work with educators
- Other trainings held by the Family Engagement Specialist based on parent needs (from the survey and other sources of input).

Building Capacity of School Staff

The district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, principals, school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

- Sending home a survey in the fall of the year to ask for parent input/suggestions on building staff capacity.
- Hold a minimum of two parent input meetings in the spring at each Title I School during which building staff capacity is a topic of discussion.
- Use the input from parents to plan Building Staff Capacity sessions (with a minimum of two per school per semester).

Building Capacity for Involvement

The district, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build capacity for involvement by:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement.
- Establishing relationships and developing roles with community organizations in family engagement activities.

Coordination of Services

The RCSS will coordinate and integrate family engagement strategies under other programs (Headstart, special education, migrant, Pre-K and others) that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children in order best serve the needs of all students and families.

