



About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the district receives Title I, Part A funds and must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement plan that contains information required by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This plan 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 is submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

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.

Jointly Developed

The district will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district plan:

- At least two meetings at each Title I school are held in the spring to solicit parent input as well as a schoolwide planning meeting during which time the school improvement plan is developed. All stakeholders are invited to attend and give 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).
- The plan is posted on the school and district website with a feedback form.
- 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 (FES) 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 FES to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. The Federal Programs Director and FES will hold meetings and trainings as needed to review family engagement plans and activities.

Annual Title I Meetings

Both RCPS and RCES will conduct annual Title I meetings in October of 2020 to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school’s participation as well as the rights of parents under Title I.

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.

Communications

The district will take the following steps to communicate with parents and families:

- Ensure that the parent and family engagement policy is written in an understandable format, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand
- Offer meetings at various times (such as in the morning and evening)
- Offer meetings in different formats (such as offered online and in-person group meetings as well as home visits or other types of individual meetings as requested)
- Offer transportation as such services relate to preventing barriers to parent and family engagement
- Offer child care as such services relate to preventing barriers to parent and family engagement
- Address opportunities for regular meetings if requested by parents

School-Parent Compact

The district will jointly develop a school-parent compact with parents and family members which will include the following:

- Outline in the School-Parent Compact how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement
- Build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging State academic standards

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 plan 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 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.

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.

Building Capacity of Parents

The district will 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
- Literacy and technology training
- Other trainings held by the Family Engagement Specialist based on parent needs (from the survey and other sources of input).

