



Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Rev 2/2021

The Gulf Shores City Board of Education believes that the education of children is a collaborative effort between parents and schools. Further, it is our belief that the involvement of parents of students in Title I schools enhances the effectiveness of the program and promotes student success. To that end, the Gulf Shores City Board of Education will strive to fully involve parents in the education of their child.

The Federal Programs Department will involve parents of participating children in the development and distribution of a written Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Each Title I school shall implement the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, which includes the following district goals:

- Involve parents in the process of school review and improvement
- Involve parents in the development of school-parent compact
- Strive to develop strong school/family/community partnerships by:
 - Assisting parents in understanding the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), goals and performance standards, the curriculum that is used in the school, assessments, Title I requirements, and the evaluation process of the academic progress of students;
 - Providing activities to promote improved student achievement; Activities may include:
 - Encouraging parents to attend the mandatory annual Title I informational meeting, parent-teacher association meetings, and parent-teacher conferences held at the school;
 - Parent workshops on specific strategies to assist them in helping their child improve in mathematics or reading;
 - Workshops to assist parents in interpretation of assessment results;
 - Parenting workshops on attendance policies and student code of conduct;
 - Ensuring, to the extent possible, that information sent home is in language and form that parents can understand;
 - Involving parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs;
 - Striving to involve parents in school activities;
 - Providing parents timely reports of their child's progress;
 - Offering flexible meeting times for parent participation

The Federal Programs Department will provide coordination, technical assistance, and support to assist schools in planning and implementing an effective Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The plan will be included in each school's continuous improvement plan and may incorporate the following:

- Provide materials and facilities to train parents and other school and system personnel to work cooperatively in meeting the academic needs of students;
- Coordinate and integrate parent involvement strategies with pre-school agencies;

- Conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement plan related to improving student achievement; the evaluation shall identify barriers of hard to reach parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, limited literacy or of any racial or ethnic minority background;
- Provide reasonable support for parent involvement activities as requested by parents and suggested by Parent Advisory Committees;
 - Utilize results of the annual evaluation to assist schools in strategies for school improvement and revise, if necessary, the parent involvement policies;
- Provide parents an opportunity to comment on a schoolwide program they deem unsatisfactory for the school.

In recognition that the parent is the child's first and most important teacher, and that the parent's continued involvement is essential for the success of the child, the Gulf Shores City Board of Education is committed to building a strong parent-school partnership. Gulf Shores City Schools wishes to promote the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic achievement and other school activities, including ensuring,

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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; and
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those involved in the process of school review and improvement.

Parent Advisory Committee

Gulf Shores City Schools will name a Federal Programs Parent Advisory Committee which will be composed of representatives from the community, parents, teachers and administrators involved in Title I Programs. The selected members will meet twice per year to provide feedback regarding programmatic and financial decisions as stated in federal and state legislations to include: input, development, review LEA Title I Policy and Plan; program development, implementation and evaluation; input in the development of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and distribution of any information needed to their constituency groups.

The focus of the Gulf Shores City Schools' Parent and Family Engagement Plan is to involve parents in the educational process of their child(ren) through professional development, communication, school activities, and volunteer programs. Goals and progress are communicated to the stakeholders through PTO meetings, local school parent advisory meetings, district parent advisory meetings, newsletters, and the local media in order to foster a shared commitment for a quality education for all students in Gulf Shores City Schools.

Implementation of the Gulf Shores City Schools Parent and Family Engagement Plan is reviewed and monitored periodically throughout the school year. The Federal Programs Director is responsible for maintaining documentation of data sources. An annual parent evaluation will be conducted in the spring or summer to determine if the Parent Involvement Plan had been effective in improving the academic quality of the schools.

A copy of the Parent Involvement Plan will be located in the Federal Program Director's office. Each local school parent involvement plan, embedded within the local school's Continuous Improvement Plan, will be housed at the school. A copy of the plan will be distributed to parents via the district website. Gulf Shores City Schools recognizes parents as partners in the planning process for Title I programs. Therefore, parents are encouraged to submit comments regarding this parent involvement plan. Please direct all comments to:

**Gulf Shores City Schools
Director of Federal Programs
300 E 16th Ave
Gulf Shores, AL 36542**

If these concerns are not addressed to the satisfaction of the parent, the parent may submit in writing these concerns to the

**Alabama State Department of Education
Federal Programs Coordinator
PO Box 302101
Montgomery, AL 36130**

Strategies

Understanding the significant impact that parent involvement has on a child's educational success, the Gulf Shores City Schools promotes and encourages parents, school personnel, local daycare providers, and preschool teachers to be involved in all aspects of their child's/student's education including:

- Parent Involvement on System Committees- Federal Programs Parent Advisory Committee, Federal Programs Advisory Committee, School Continuous Improvement Planning Team
- Community Involvement-Boys and Girls Club; Local Education Foundations, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club, Lion's Club
- Communication-School Newsletters, System Calendar of Events, District Website, School Website, Community Education Meetings, Parent Conference Day Activities, eCIP committees, Google Groups, School Facebook Page, Email correspondence with teachers, Remind, School Cast calling system.

Gulf Shores City Schools will provide assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning, developing and implementing a comprehensive parent

involvement program to improve student academic achievement and school performance. In an effort to maintain strong school and family partnerships, additional meetings with parents at the school level will strive to help parents understand Federal Program requirements including Parents Right to Know, proficiency levels of academic standards and monitoring their child(ren)'s education at home. Appropriate school personnel will inform parents of continuing education opportunities such as Adult Basic Education classes, and will work with parents on techniques and activities to help their child(ren) achieve challenging state content standards.

Parents Right -To-Know

Parents will be notified at the beginning of each school year by letter that their child attends a Title I school and by Federal law, may request within the first four weeks of school information regarding the professional qualifications of their child's classroom teachers to include:

- Whether the Alabama State Department of Education has licensed or qualified the teacher for the grades and subjects he or she provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which Alabama State Department of Education qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether their child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Upon receipt of the request, a response is mailed to parents within ten (10) working days. Gulf Shores City Schools provides information to parents in their native language either through a written translation or through the services of an interpreter for parents of English Learners (EL). Home visits are made if necessary to explain educational decisions that impact their child(ren).

School-Parent Compact

At the beginning of the school year, parents will be encouraged to sign a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. Implementation of the contract will provide a means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high academic standards. The school-parent compact will be included in the student handbook to be signed by all parties and returned to the local school. Compacts will be filed in each student's class or homeroom.

Safe Schools

It is the goal of Gulf Shores City School System that all students will be educated in learning environments that are safe, drug free, and conducive to learning. Parents will be notified yearly by the local school the status of safety issues in Gulf Shores City Schools according to the annual system and school report card, published by the State Department of Education.