

Parent and Family Engagement Policy: A Plan for Shared Student Achievement

2021-2022 School Year
Revised August 3, 2021



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PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) believes that family engagement involves the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Our family engagement program and activities are designed to ensure that:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- Parents feel supported and empowered by staff.
- 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.
- Parents feel connected to other GCA families and the GCA community.



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GCA'S PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

What is it?

GCA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy is our Plan for Shared Student Achievement which describes how GCA will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. GCA values the contributions and involvement of parents, Learning Coaches, and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This policy describes the different ways that GCA will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and outside of the virtual classroom.

How is it Revised?

GCA invited all parents to attend our Title I Family Engagement End of Year Review & Input Meeting last spring to review and provide input on our Family Engagement Policy as well as our School-Parent Compacts, and our family engagement budget. We also distributed our annual survey online to all families to ask parents for their suggestions on the policy, School-Parent Compacts, and the use of funds for family engagement. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this policy are welcomed throughout the school year through focus groups, survey feedback, email feedback, online meetings, and phone calls. The policy is posted on our website for families to view and submit feedback throughout the year. Parents and family members are also welcomed to give feedback during parent meetings provided throughout the school year. The Family School Partnership Coordinators reviews feedback annually to provide revisions for the Family Engagement Policy. We welcome Learning Coach, parent, and family feedback. If you would like to provide feedback, please email Michelle Gilyard, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at mgilyard@georgiacyber.org . All parent feedback received during the current school year will be used to revise the plan for the following school year.

Where is it Available?

At the beginning of the year, the policy is emailed to all families by the Family School Partnership Coordinators. The policy is also provided in our Annual Title I Meeting, and is available on our website <https://www.georgiacyber.org/parents/title-i-program>



TITLE 1

What is Title I?

GCA is identified as a Title I district and school as part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

Reservation of Title I Funds

GCA will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds to carry out parent and family engagement requirements. Furthermore, at least 90% of the 1% will be reserved to support family engagement programs and activities. Family engagement programs and activities are to ensure that parents are provided opportunities and experiences that enable them to promote high student academic achievement and be involved in an effective partnership with the school.

State and Federal Collaborations

GCA coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies with the Georgia Department of Education through ongoing collaborations and continuing education. GCA is proud to have contributed to the Georgia Department of Education by providing technical assistance to the [2017-2019 Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Cohort](#).

Strengthening Our School

Ongoing staff professional development is provided district wide by the Family School Partnership Coordinators to strengthen our staff's family engagement practices. Some of the topics that will be covered are best practices in the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to effectively reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how we implement and coordinate parent programs; how to provide information in a language that parents can understand; and how to build ties between parents and the school. Parents are asked to participate and provide feedback on staff family engagement professional development.

School-Parent Compact

GCA staff and parents/learning coaches work collaboratively to develop the School-Parent Compacts as part of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This compact outlines how parents/learning coaches, school, staff, and students share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and how the school and parents/learning coaches will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve the state's high standards. Copies of the School-Parent Compacts are located on our website: <https://www.georgiacyber.org/parents/title-i-program>

Information in an Understandable Language

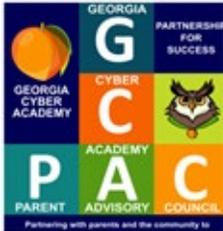
In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Family School Partnership Coordinators will communicate and collaborate with the Title III Coordinator, Transitional Support Liaisons, and Student Support Services Team to ensure opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities are provided information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Annual Evaluation

The GCA Annual Parent Survey is conducted each spring to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy and programming in improving the academic quality of our school. The survey is also used to identify barriers to greater participation by parents and to identify the needs of parents in how they can further assist with the learning of their student. Results from this survey are used in the planning of future parent and family engagement programming and documentation.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GCA welcomes our parents and Learning Coaches to become active participants through volunteering and participating in parent leadership opportunities at our school. Please consider partnering with us to ensure the academic success of all students and the engagement of all families at GCA.



The purpose of the Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) Parent Advisory Council is for parents to be positive ambassadors while providing meaningful input that impacts our students and their families. The primary focus for the advisory members is to increase parent and family engagement ensuring student academic success. The goal of the GCA Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to ensure the effective involvement of parents while forming a partnership with the GCA community and supporting our Family-Friendly School environment. If you have questions or would like to apply for next school year, please contact Veronica Okpani, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at vokpani@georgiacyber.org.



The Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) Student Board of Advisors (SBA) provides feedback on our school from the student's perspective. The council is comprised of students who represent GCA's Primary, Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Grade Bands. The purpose of GCA SBA is to provide feedback on the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students with the goal of identifying any student concerns which will be shared with school leadership. If you have questions or would like to apply for next school year, please contact Michelle Gilyard, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at mjilyard@georgiacyber.org.



Georgia Cyber Academy Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (GCA PTSO) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and enhance the educational experience for the children attending GCA. The PTSO provides an avenue of communication, offers volunteer opportunities, and fundraises to assist with school related programs and projects. To volunteer for the 2021/2022 school year complete this [Volunteer Survey](#). More information about GCA PTSO and how you can be involved is located on the PTSO website at www.gcaptso.org. If you have questions, please email Michelle Gilyard, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at mjilyard@georgiacyber.org.

FAMILY SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES

School Website

Our school website has a wealth of information including faculty directory, school policies, school news, academic and events calendars, department information, Georgia Milestones resources, new family resources and much more. Visit the GCA website at <https://www.georgiacyber.org/>.

GCA Calendar

The GCA Calendar contains details about in-person/virtual events and online support sessions. In-person events are planned by our school, teachers, and parent leaders all over the state to provide educational and social opportunities with other GCA families. Online support sessions cover a variety of topics. View the GCA Calendar at <https://www.georgiacyber.org/calendars/all-calendars> for details.

Learning Coach Live Help

The Family School Partnership Coordinators hosts online open office help sessions at the beginning of the school year. Department leaders from Primary Grade Bands, Elementary Grade Bands, Middle Grade Bands, Secondary School Grade Bands, Counseling, Accountability, Strong Start New & Returning Parent Support, and Special Education & LIFE Program are available to help answer families' questions and provide support. Learning Coach Live Help will take place daily:

July 26th – Aug 13th, Monday-Friday from 12:00-1:00

Aug 16th – Aug 30th, Monday-Wednesday from 12:00-1:00

Sept 7th - Oct 18th, Monday-Wednesday from 12:00-1:00

For more information and to find the session link, please visit the GCA Parent Calendar at <https://www.georgiacyber.org/calendars/parent-calendar>.

Family Engagement Liaisons

The role of the GCA Family Engagement Liaison (FEL) is to provide holistic support to each student and their family throughout each school year. The purpose is to guarantee that all GCA families have adequate support and individual communication to foster family-school partnerships that lead to increased student achievement. The Family Engagement Liaison is a gateway to many other resources and departmental support.



MEANINGFUL INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

Input and suggestions from parents, Learning Coaches, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement process. GCA will host the following online meetings and provide recordings for the purpose of sharing information and providing a platform for input into our district and school planning.

CLIP (District Improvement Plan) Family & Stakeholder Input Meeting – March 15, 2022

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district/school improvement plan that is developed each year. Georgia Cyber Academy invites our families and stakeholders to participate in developing a Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Parents, family, community partners, and staff will be given the opportunity to volunteer on school improvement committees in the meeting and via email. *If you would like to provide feedback at any time on our District Improvement Plans, please email Lucretia Nolan at lnolan@georgiacyber.org.*

SPANISH CLIP (District Improvement Plan) Family & Stakeholder Input Meeting – March 24, 2022

Spanish language delivery of 03/15/2022 CLIP (District Improvement Plan) Family and Stakeholder Input Meeting content will be provided.

Title I End of Year Review & Input Meeting – April 12, 2022

We will review our Title I Family Engagement Program and evaluate its effectiveness for the 2020-2021 School Year. We will be providing the opportunity for feedback on how we can improve our documents and programming for the 2021-2022 School Year. Those items include: The District Wide/School Wide Plan, Title I Funding (including 1% set-aside for parent and family engagement activities), Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compacts, and Family Engagement Staff and Parent Trainings. *If you would like to provide feedback at any time on our Title I Family Engagement Program, please email Michelle Gilyard at mgilyard@georgiacyber.org.*

SPANISH Title I End of Year Review & Input Meeting – April 21, 2022

Spanish language delivery of 04/12/2022 Title I End of the Year Review and Input Meeting content will be provided.

PARENT MEETINGS

GCA will host the following online meetings to build the capacity of our parents and families with the goal of fostering family-friendly partnerships and improving student academic achievement.

District Town Hall – August 10, 2021

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year with updates from district leaders and open forum to ask questions and discuss concerns.

Gifted Program Information Session August 12, 2021

During this information session an explanation of the Gifted Program, difference between advanced and gifted, eligibility and gifted testing, and placement for advanced and gifted classes will be discussed. Followed by a Question-and-Answer session.

Copyright Piracy & Literacy Training - August 24, 2021

During this session FSPC's will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology including education about the harms of copyright piracy, general computer maintenance, email/internet safety, and plagiarism/honor code.

Curriculum Nights – Grades K-2 08/26/2021, Grades 3-5 - 8/30/2021, Grades 6-8 - 08/31/2021, Grades 9-12 - 09/01/2021

During each grade bands Curriculum Night session, the Instruction, Curriculum & Assessment Director along with the grade band Principals will explain standards, assessments, monitoring progress, and working with educators.

Parent Meeting & Parent University – September 21, 2021

In the Parent Meeting, we will discuss Parent Leadership opportunities, thank our parent leaders, and show you how you can become a parent leader. After the Parent Meeting, we will transition into grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12), in Parent University Rooms where educators will review how you can help support your student in Math. Breakout rooms for a Special Education Information Session, Instructional Support Services Information Session, and LIFE information sessions will also be available.

SPANISH Parent Meeting & Parent University – September 23, 2021

Spanish language delivery of 09/21/2021 parent meeting, parent university content will be provided in a translatable recording.

English Learner Family Night – October 5, 2021

In this meeting, we will discuss the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at GCA and show parents of ESOL students how they can be involved in the education of their children as well as become active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging academic standards expected of all students. An interpreter will be in the session and slides will be delivered in both English and Spanish.

PARENT MEETINGS

Annual Title I Meeting – October 12, 2021

The purpose of this meeting is to provide our Parents, Learning Coaches, and stakeholders with information about our Title I Program and our parents' right to be involved in their child's education. We will review items and documents such as the District Wide/School Wide Plan, Title I Funding (including 1% set-aside for parent and family engagement activities), Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and Family Engagement Staff and Parent Trainings.

Spanish Annual Title I Meeting – October 21, 2021

Spanish language delivery of 10/12/2021 Annual Title I Meeting content.

Parent Meeting & Parent University – November 9, 2021

In the Parent Meeting, we will discuss Family Engagement Month. We will also share Fundraising from home opportunities, how to work with educators to improve student achievement, and a guest speaker from the Attendance Compliance Team will discuss Attendance Awareness Month information. After the Parent Meeting, we will transition into grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) Parent University Rooms where educators will review how you can help support your student in Reading and English Language Arts. An Instructional Support Services Representative will be in each grade band breakout room. There will also be a Special Education information breakout room, and a LIFE information breakout room.

Senate Bill 60 Parent Information Session – November 16, 2021

Senate Bill 60 Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention strategies and GCA health screening parent information session.

SPANISH Parent Meeting & Parent University – November 18, 2021

Spanish language delivery of 11/09/2021 parent meeting, parent university content will be provided in a translatable recording.

Parent Meeting & Parent University – December 14, 2021

In the Parent Meeting, we will share how to engage and motivate your student, a Learning Coach guest speaker will provide tips and best practices on motivating and keeping your student engaged. After the Parent Meeting, we will transition into grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) Parent University Rooms where educators will review how to read MAP scores and encourage student MAP growth. An Instructional Support Services Representative and Special Education Representative will be in each grade band breakout room. There will also be a LIFE breakout room.

SPANISH Parent Meeting & Parent University – December 16, 2021

Spanish language delivery of 12/14/2021 parent meeting, parent university content will be provided in a translatable recording.

District Town Hall – January 11, 2022

We will celebrate the New Year. District school leaders will provide updates and share important news. An open forum to ask questions and discuss concerns will be provided at the end of the meeting.

PARENT MEETINGS

Parent Meeting & Parent University – February 1, 2022

In the Parent Meeting, we will discuss Parent Leadership Month, and Growth Mindsets for Parents and Students. After the Parent Meeting, we will transition into grade bands (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) Parent University Rooms where educators will review how you can help support your student with science. An Instructional Support Services Representative will be in each grade band breakout room. There will also be a Special Education Information Session breakout room, a LIFE information breakout room, and an Access Testing Information breakout room.

SPANISH Parent Meeting & Parent University – February 8, 2022

Spanish language delivery of 02/01/2022 parent meeting, parent university content will be provided in a translatable recording.

Parent Meeting & Parent University – March 8, 2021

In the Parent Meeting, we will discuss Georgia Milestone Assessments and how your family can prepare for state mandated testing. After the Parent Meeting, we will transition into grade bands (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) Parent University Rooms where educators will review how you can help your student prepare academically Milestone Assessments and test taking strategies. There will also be a Special Education breakout room, and a LIFE breakout room.

SPANISH Parent Meeting & Parent University – March 10, 2022

Spanish language delivery of 03/08/2022 parent meeting, parent university content will be provided in a translatable recording.

Senate Bill 60 Parent Information Session – May 3, 2022

Senate Bill 60 Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention strategies and GCA health screening parent information session.

District Town Hall – May 17, 2022

We will celebrate school year accomplishments and achievements. District school leaders will share end of year updates and provide glimpse into the next school year. An open forum to ask questions and discuss concerns will be provided at the end of the meeting.

Technology Trainings

The Family School Partnership Coordinators will share Tech Byte resources and recordings for parents and families. The purpose is to help families become more comfortable assisting their student in our online virtual schooling environment. Topics to be covered include the setup of GCA issued equipment, general computer maintenance, email safety, computer organization, navigation of online school programs, internet safety, plagiarism/honor code & copyright piracy, as well as organizing your computer to close out the year.

For more information about upcoming meetings or to access recordings from previous meetings, please visit our GCA Parent Calendar at <https://www.georgiacyber.org/calendars/parent-calendar>.

Recordings will be placed on the calendar.

Recordings will contain meeting documents and feedback opportunities.



Thank you for your collaboration in building an effective parent-school partnership for the continuous improvement of our school.