



**Title I LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
Turner County School System
2020-2021**

Revision Date: October 21, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Turner County School System 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Turner County School System 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 of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
- 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 Turner County System Plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, 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:
 - Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school

activities, including ensuring:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in the child's education at school.
- 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.
- Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT
REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
COMPONENTS**

- Turner County School System will educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and staff, with the assistance of parents, 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 home-school partnerships.
- Turner County School System will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations, businesses, and parents in order to increase and maximize participation in parent and family engagement activities. Additionally, information shall be provided regarding opportunities for organizations and businesses to support parent and family engagement that facilitates the formation of meaningful partnerships among all stakeholders. Activities such as role modeling, volunteering, and mentoring will be carried out among schools, local community-based organizations, and businesses.
- The Turner County Parent Engagement Coordinator shall seek to provide opportunities for parents and family members to learn about and participate in discussions regarding child development, positive parenting strategies, and building and maintaining a positive relationship between home and school. Additionally, the Parent Engagement Coordinator shall also provide opportunities for teachers and staff members to learn about and participate in discussions regarding the building and maintaining of positive communications between school and home.
- Turner County School System will ensure, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the homes of participating children in the language used in such homes or through the use of an interpreter in providing such information to parents. Information is, to the extent possible, posted on the school and/or system website and is available in each school office.
- Turner County School System will establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide feedback and recommendations on all matters related to parent and family engagement involvement in Title I, Part A programs.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Turner County School System** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district plan under Section 1112, Section 1116, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

- Form a Parent Advisory Council that will include, but not be limited to, parents, family members, community representatives, teachers, and administrators.
- All parents and family members will be invited to a district-wide meeting to provide input and revise the district parent and family engagement policy each spring. Parent, family members, and community stakeholders, along with the district parent and family engagement coordinator, will oversee the implementation of this policy. The revised parent and family engagement plan will be available to all parents and families, posted on the district and school websites, and located in the Parent and Family Engagement Resource room.
- Will make the Title I parent survey available to all families each spring. All families are distributed paper copies and have access to the surveys on the school websites. Survey results provide an evaluation of the implementation of family engagement practices and activities. Survey results will provide input into the revision of this plan and the CLIP.
- Will offer an Annual Title I spring input meeting. All families of students attending Title I schools are invited to meet with principals and staff to provide input on the School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide Program Plans, school parent and family engagement plans, school compacts, how the 1% funding is spent, and review the six strategies for building parent capacity. Advertisement is made through school websites, school newsletters, email, school marquee, and the local newspaper.
- Solicit parent feedback and input continuously through school advisory meetings, PTO meetings, workshops, newsletters, and school and district websites. All feedback received is used to inform the policy revision as well as annual CLIP process.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Turner County School System** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Turner County School System will provide technical assistance and other support necessary to assist in planning and implementing an effective parental involvement program.

- Technical assistance may be provided through Coastal Plains RESA, the Georgia Department of Education, content area consultants, community based human service organizations, or other agencies such as area colleges and universities.
- Workshops and pertinent activities will be developed, scheduled, and implemented throughout the year.
- The LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be jointly developed and distributed to each Title I school site. The policy will also be available in the district office and shall also be posted on the district website.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Turner County School System** 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 involvement and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. 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 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.

- All Title I parents will be provided the opportunity to complete the annual evaluation. The evaluation will include survey questions aimed at identifying the strengths, weaknesses, and future needs of the program.
- The Parent Engagement Coordinator will disaggregate survey data, identify needs for the system, and provide a summary of survey responses and needs to the Title I Director.
- Annual evaluation results will be shared with each building principal, all district leaders, and members of the District-Wide Parent Advisory Council. Building principals shall be charged with sharing survey results with the school leadership team.
- Survey results shall be provided to parents and family members at the annual Title I stakeholder meeting.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Turner County School System** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools. An exception may be made to this provision if participating Title I principals agree to pool all or part of their family-school partnership allocation for a district level family-school partnership activity/project.

- Turner County Title I principals have agreed to pool all of their Title I family-school partnership allocation so that the district can fund the salary of a Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator. The 1% allocation is supplemented by additional Title I funds to support the funding of this position. The Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator coordinates, conducts, and oversees the implementation of the parent and family program to ensure fidelity as it relates to the requirements found within ESSA.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Turner County School System** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: **Head Start, Bright From the Start, and Family Connection of Turner County Inc.** that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Coordinating activities with the Turner County Preschool program and Head Start to discuss with parents the requirements and expectations of kindergarten. Transition activities may include reviewing the registration process, examining academic expectations, discussing behavioral expectations, and identifying strategies that parents and family members may utilize to ease the transition process.
- Collaborating with Family Connection of Turner County Inc. to maximize potential outreach opportunities available to parents and family members, school faculty, and community members.
- Providing the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator the opportunity to participate in local, regional, and state conferences/workshops in order to provide parents with information regarding available support and/or strategies. The Coordinator shall participate in the monthly Community Collaborative of social service agencies that meets in a neighboring district.
- The Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator planning and conducting parent workshops and training programs based on needs identified through the annual evaluation.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Turner County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A

- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

The Turner County School District will, with the assistance of stakeholders, seek to educate its parents on how to effectively reach out to, communicate with, and work with teachers as equal partners by:

- Completing the GaDOE Checklist for Building Capacity of Parents on an annual basis.
- Utilizing the GaDOE Building Parent Capacity Crosswalk.
- Providing parents and family members with resources that provide guidance and strategies on how to effectively reach out to, communicate with, and work with teachers as equal partners.
- Conducting parent and family workshops that address effective home and school communication.
- Following the GaDOE Parent Engagement Facebook page and sharing provided resources with parents and family members.
- Providing the opportunity for the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator to attend local, regional, and state conferences aimed at improving and increasing parent and family engagement.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Turner County School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other 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 to implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

- Completing the GaDOE Checklist for Building Capacity of School Staff on annual basis.
- Utilizing GaDOE resources, such as the Ideas for Building School Staff Capacity Guide, to share with principals and school staff in order to maximize opportunities to build school staff capacity.
- Customize and present the Building School Staff Capacity Power-point shared by the GaDOE Family-School Partnership Program to staff members of Title I schools.
- Following the GaDOE Parent Engagement Facebook page and sharing provided resources with staff members.
- Ensuring that information sent home, to the extent possible, is in the language most commonly used in the home. The district will provide translators and interpreters, to the extent possible, to assist with document translation and to participate in meetings with parents and family members.

- Providing the opportunity for the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator to attend local, regional, and state conferences aimed at improving and increasing parent and family engagement.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The following are discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA that the Turner County Parent and Family Engagement Program may utilize to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school:


- 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 parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- Maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by feedback provided by the stakeholders of the Turner County School System.

This policy was adopted by the **Turner County School System** on **October 21, 2020** and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children prior to **November 1, 2020**.

Signature of Federal Programs Director



Superintendent



Date

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