

Turner County School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

What is Family Engagement?

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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Turner County Schools has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe Turner County Schools' commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Turner County Schools will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed

During the annual District revision meeting in April 2022, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improving this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2022-2023 school year. The district sent home parent notices, posted notices on the district website, and placed advertisements in the local newspaper and on social media. Another opportunity for input was at the May 26, 2022 District Stakeholders' meeting. Parents, community members, and educators reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (S-CLIP), the Strategic Plan, and School Improvement School Plans. The meeting was advertised in the local newspaper, on the district website and on social media. A mass text reminder was sent to parents the day before. Additionally, each Title I school reviewed its school parent and family engagement policy and compacts in April 2022.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy is uploaded into the 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 to your child's school. All feedback received by June 15, 2022 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites, in school front offices, in the parent resource center, and disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

Communications

Turner County Schools will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone and text messages, emails, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The district and school will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events in order for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as ways

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to 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 FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold regular meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

Turner County Schools is required to reserve 1 percent of the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2022-2023 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, Turner County Schools is required to distribute 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved to Title I schools to support their individual family engagement programs and activities. However, for 2022-2023 the schools chose to combine and allocate their 1 percent back to the district level to support district level activities. The district will use the funds to hire a district-level parent and family engagement coordinator who will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in meeting the needs of parents, families, and the community. The district coordinator's sole responsibility is to assist each Title I school in fulfilling all of its Title I requirements with parent engagement.

Each Title I school hosted an annual revision meeting in March for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. All comments and survey feedback was reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have any further suggestions, please contact Turner County Schools in the district office.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

District Stakeholders' Meeting ~ May 2023

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from Turner County Schools as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan, for the 2023-2024 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be advertised in the local newspaper, on the district website, on social media, and shared with all parents well in advance of the meeting.

School Revision Meetings ~ March 2023

Each Title I school will host a meeting for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the school-wide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send invitations home as well as email and text parents to notify them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the School Revision Meeting also will be made available on the school websites.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training and allows parents to provide their suggestions.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit <https://turner.k12.ga.us> to review the documents and to leave your input.



Annual Title I Meeting~ October 2022

At the beginning of the school year, each Title I school will host a meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, each Title I school, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students meet the challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The compacts will be revised annually, distributed to all families, and reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.

Building Capacity

Turner County Schools will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, Turner County Schools will implement a variety of family and community engagement activities.

Of Parents – Turner County Schools will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to the State’s challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding the use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters/flyers, and social media postings.

In addition, the district and school websites will contain resources and materials such as parent guides and study guides for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools, including copies in Spanish.

The District Stakeholders Team consists of school administrators, academic coaches, teachers, paraprofessionals, counselors, and other representatives from each Title I school. It also consists of district level employees, community leaders and business partners. The team works together for the district and schools on all matters related to family engagement and student achievement. The participation of all our partners is sought and encouraged through advertisements in the local newspaper, text messaging, social media posts, as well as advertisement on district and school websites.

Turner County Schools will coordinate and integrate the district’s family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. Each spring, the schools will host Kindergarten ready days. We also host middle school and high school transition days as well. All of these are so parents can receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Of School Staff – Turner County Schools will conduct four capacity building trainings (two per semester) during the school year for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community, in Title I-A schools.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents’ preferred language, where applicable. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize system’s callout system, district and school websites, local newspaper, and social media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, Turner County Schools conducts an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities through an annual parent survey and through the annual school improvement meeting. The purpose is to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools.

Beginning in March, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link for the survey so parents can provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys also will be posted on the district and school websites for parents to

complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will have School Revision and Improvement meetings to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

Turner County Schools will use the findings from the school revision and improvement meetings and survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Adoption

This parent and family engagement combo policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by Turner County Schools on June 15, 2022 and will be in effect for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during the first weeks of the fall semester.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey & Annual Revision Meeting
March 2023

School Improvement Meeting
May 2023 –
Location TBD

District Stakeholders Meeting
May 2023 – Location TBD

For Schools

Welcoming Schools Training
July 2022 –
County Board Office

Principal and FEC Meetings
1st Wednesday of each month

