

# Pierce County School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2022-23 School Year  
Plan Revised March 03, 2022  
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## 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 ensuring ...

- ❖ That parents and family members play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning.
- ❖ That parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- ❖ That parents and family members 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.
- ❖ The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Sections 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



The focus for our district will be to increase stakeholder (students, parents, family members, community) understanding, trust, and support of the school system.

## Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Pierce County School District (PCSD) has developed this Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and 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 PCSD's 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 parent and family engagement plans, 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. The PCSD 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**

Throughout the school year, each school asks parents for feedback on the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan. During the annual District Parent Advisory Council meeting in February, families & community members were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan for the 2022-23 school year. The district posted information on Livingtree Engage, the district Facebook page and sent a flyer home informing parents about the meeting. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the District PFE Plan. Additionally, each Title I school used a Parent Café meeting to review the district Parent & Family Engagement Plan and their school improvement plan. Each school sent a flyer home to all parents notifying them about the date(s) and time(s) of the meeting(s). Information regarding the meetings was also posted on Livingtree Engage & on Title I schools' Facebooks.

Upon final revision, the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time to the District PFE Coordinator or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All feedback received was considered in the planning process for the school year.

The District PFE Plan is posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school parent meetings, in elementary schools' agendas/handbook, in Parent and Family Engagement notebooks in school foyers, and made available upon request in the schools' offices.

## **Strengthening Our Schools**

The District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent and family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the District FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' FECs to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the District FEC and/or the Assistant Superintendent will work with principals and school FECs in the spring to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the

remainder of the school year and begin planning for the upcoming year.

## **Reservation of Funds**

The PCSD will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2022-23 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the PCSD will distribute 100 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will hold Parent Cafés for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school level. Comments and minutes from these meetings will be 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 suggestions, please contact the District FEC at (912) 449-2044.

## **Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation**

Each year, the PCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Plan and family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey, Parent Cafés, District Parent Advisory Council Meeting (PAC), suggestion box input and online stakeholder feedback forms.

In January, each Title I school will send home a flyer explaining how to access our parent & family engagement survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. Links to these surveys will be posted on Livingtree Engage & schools' Facebooks. Paper copies are available at each school's front office. Each Title I school will host Parent Cafes while the District will host a District PAC meeting to facilitate group discussions addressing the needs of parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. In addition, each Title I school will provide a suggestion box in the foyer of each school and a stakeholder feedback form on the schools' websites.

The PCSD will use the findings from the Parent Cafes, District PAC meeting, schools' suggestion boxes, stakeholder feedback forms, and survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise its parent and family engagement plans.

## Opportunities for Parent/Family Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to participate in any of the various opportunities provided to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

### District Parent Advisory Council Meeting ~ 2/28/23

All families are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Pierce County School District as well as review and provide input into the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 school year. The district will communicate information regarding this meeting on Livingtree Engage, on the district website, on the district Facebook page, and with flyers.

### Parent Cafés

Each Title I school will host Parent Café meetings. During the Parent Cafés we will have roundtable discussions to help build relationships and improve students' academic achievements. Also, the Parent Cafés will offer decision making opportunities. Parents will be invited to assist in revising elements of this District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, our schools' parent and family engagement plans, school/parent compacts, school improvement plans, building staff capacity, parent activities, and the family engagement budget. Invitations regarding the Parent Cafés will be sent to all parents notifying them of the date(s) and time(s). In addition, the information will be available on Livingtree Engage.

### Parent & Family Engagement Survey ~ 1/13/23 – 2/10/23

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual Parent & Family Engagement survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parent and family engagement program, budget, and school staff training for parents to provide their comments. Flyers telling about the surveys will be sent to all families. The flyer will include information about how families can obtain a paper copy. Links to access the electronic versions of the surveys are available on Livingtree Engage. These surveys are available in English and Spanish.

*Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access Parent and Family Engagement information from the Pierce County School District Website.*



or <http://www.pierce.k12.ga.us/>

Click on Parents & Students, Parent & Family Engagement

The Pierce County School District welcomes and values your input! Stakeholder feedback forms can be found on the district & school websites. Suggestion boxes are located in school foyers. Additionally, you may send comments or suggestions to Angie Meadows, [ameadows@pierce.k12.ga.us](mailto:ameadows@pierce.k12.ga.us) or turn into your school office.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Director of Student Services and the Assistant Superintendent 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, when feasible.

## Adoption

This District Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents & family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, family members, school and district personnel at the annual District Parent Advisory Council meeting and school-level Parent Cafés. This plan was reviewed and revised by the Pierce County School District on March 3, 2022 and will be in effect for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents and family members of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2022.



## **Building Capacity**

*The PCSD 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, the PCSD will implement a variety of district wide activities and programs.*

***Of Parents*** – The PCSD will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district will work 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 use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted in Livingtree Engage. Flyers will be sent home and the information may be shared in many schools’ newsletters & Facebooks.

The PCSD will also provide a page on the district website that will contain resources and materials, such as parent guides, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish (to the extent feasible). In addition, the PCSD offers a “Virtual” Pierce County Family Resource Room. Our “Virtual” PC Family Resource Room has valuable activities for Pre-K through 12<sup>th</sup> grades including instructional videos featuring Pierce County teachers! ([www.pinterest.com/pcresourceroom/\\_saved/](http://www.pinterest.com/pcresourceroom/_saved/))

The PCSD has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council.

The PCSD 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. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Transition days and Middle/High School Transition opportunities so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

***Of School Staff*** - The PCSD will provide information to principals in order to increase their awareness on the importance of parents in the educational setting. The school FECs will attend trainings throughout the school year to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district FEC will also provide technical assistance to each Title I school to review and discuss parent and family engagement requirements and initiatives. The PCSD will assist each Title I school with training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on best practices and ideas of how to effectively reach out to parents in a meaningful and productive manner.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will send home and post online information for parents and family members about upcoming programs/activities. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents’ native language, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings (to the extent feasible). Also, information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent feasible. The district will also utilize Livingtree Engage, Facebook pages, the automated phone system, school websites, local newspaper, and other school message systems to post information for parents.