

Jackson County School System

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2022-2023

Revised 6/30/22

1660 Winder Hwy

Jefferson, GA 30549

www.jacksonschools.ga.org

(706) 367-5151



What is Family Engagement?

Parent and Family Engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student academic achievement and success.

We truly believe that we can meet the needs of all our students; but it will take everyone in Jackson County to make it happen. When an entire community of different people interact or invest in children, by focusing on the importance of education, the whole community succeeds.

Parents, we need you now more than ever. We know you want what's best for your child(ren) and our desire is to partner with you to ensure that your child has a blanket of support that will cover him/her with the knowledge and experience needed to be self-sufficient adults. Our doors and arms are open. Please accept our invitation. Your child's future depends on it.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Jackson County School System (JCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement. This plan will describe JCSS'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 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 important family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the system and school plan, and in carrying out the system 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 JCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school parent compact.

Jointly Developed

During the annual Title I Stakeholders meeting in April, parent representatives were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this system parent and family engagement plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Each Title I school hosted a spring meeting in which all parents were invited to give input and/ or complete a survey to provide input on individual school Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plans, (SIP) and the Parent and Family Engagement Plan as well as the System Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Title I schools utilize the Parent Teacher Organization to gather feedback and input on School Improvement Plans and System and School Parent and Family Engagement Plans. The district family engagement coordinator sent an email to parents and community stakeholders informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school system website.

During this meeting, parents reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) as well as the system parent and family engagement plan and were asked to participate in an online survey to provide input.

Upon final revision, the system parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school system website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by June was included with the plan for this year.

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district 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 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 FEC will hold meetings and trainings throughout the year with its Title I schools' principals and school Family Engagement Specialists to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The JCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2022-2023 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the JCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The system 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 hosted an annual Stakeholder Input Meeting in April/May for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. In the spring an evaluation is conducted with system Title I staff, Title I school staff and families to evaluate the effectiveness of the system and school's parent involvement program. Parent input surveys are given each spring which also provides parents an opportunity to give suggestions for the next year's budget. Minutes and other documentation from these meetings are analyzed by the district and school staff to determine areas of need for the up-coming school year and consider changes to the parental involvement programs and budgets.

"At the end of the day the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents."

--Jane D. Hull



Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation



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

Stakeholder Input Meeting~ April-May 2022

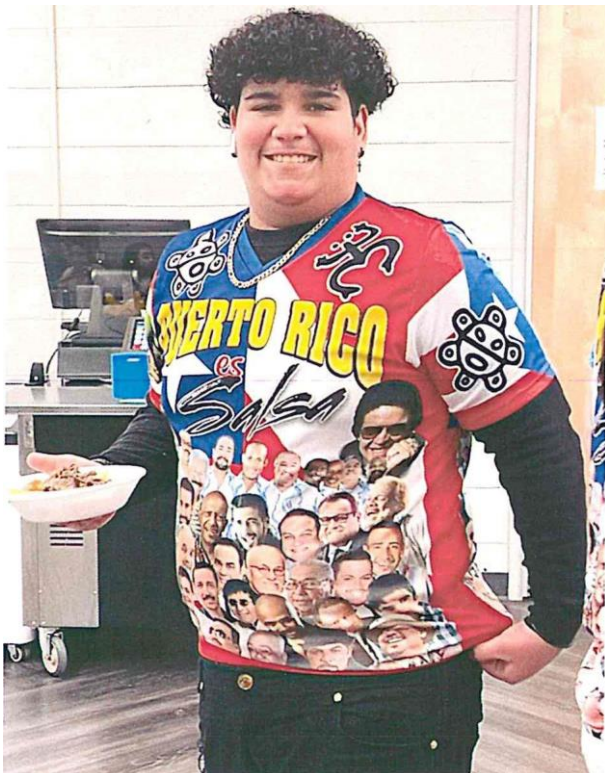
All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Jackson County School System as well as review and provide input into the system parent and family engagement plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent to parents and community stakeholders in advance of the meeting. Communication regarding this meeting will also be posted on the school system website.

School Stakeholder Input Meeting~ April-May 2022

During this month, each Title I school will host a Stakeholder Input Meeting for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement plans as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send a letter home notifying parents about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the Stakeholder Input Meeting will also be made available on the school websites and posted on other social media.

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

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit <https://www.jacksonschools.ga.org/Page/291> to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



"Parent involvement in education is like the frosting on a cupcake, it makes it complete and oh so sweet."

--Unknown

Building Capacity

The JCSS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following system wide activities and programs.

Of Parents - The JCSS will work through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and local academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. Title I schools will provide parents with opportunities to attend family engagement events and activities throughout the school year concerning Title I program requirements, Georgia Standards of Excellence, MAP, using technology for student services. Various academic content workshops will be offered to parents that provide training and materials to help their children with reinforcing learning at home. These may include, but are not limited to Math and Literacy Nights, Migrant Family Fun Nights, and EL Cultural Celebrations, etc. Each individual Title I school will share dates and times for these family engagement nights by sending home invites as well as posting this information on the website, text messages, and other social media.

The JCSS will also coordinate pages on the system and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent resource booklets, study guides, and practice assessments to help parents work with their children at home in the areas of math and reading. 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. These copies, as well as additional learning resources, will be located in each Title I school's Parent/Family Resource Room. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), Title I schools will host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The JCSS will establish a system wide Parent and Family Engagement Council comprised of two parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council, as well. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

The JCSS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend district parent family engagement meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Registration so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The JCSS will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

Of School Staff - The district Family Engagement Coordinator will provide all Title I school administrators and school level family engagement coordinators with trainings and technical assistance throughout the school year related to the value of family and school partnerships, increasing family engagement, improving school-family communication, creating welcoming environments, how to respond to parent requests and any additional support needed for an effective family engagement program. School level Family Engagement Coordinators will redeliver trainings for staff members at Title I schools to build staff capacity for partnering with families. Federal Programs Director will conduct visits to each Title I school to review and discuss family engagement requirements and initiatives.

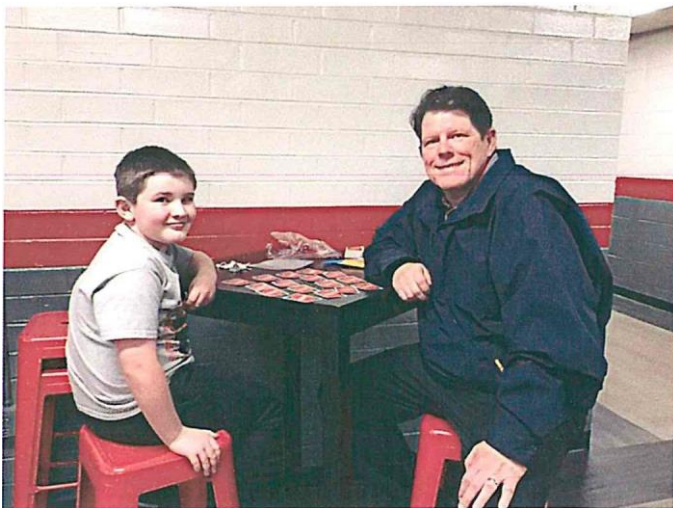
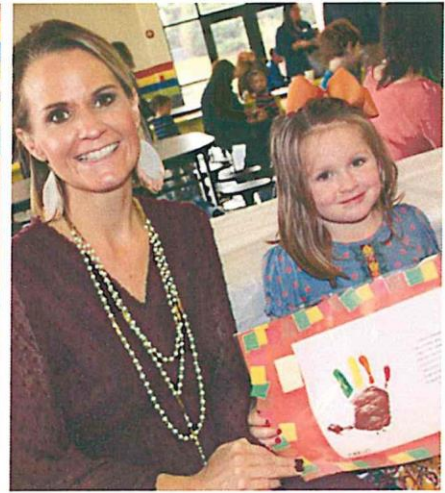
To ensure that information related to system, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language. Information posted on the system website will be translated to the extent practicable. The system will also utilize Infinite Campus Messenger System, system and school websites, local newspaper and other school message systems to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the JCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Each Title I school will send home a link to the survey, or a paper copy when applicable, for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. The link to this survey will also be posted on the system and school website for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The JCSS will use the findings from the school forums and the 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 plans.



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 system wide parent and family engagement plan 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 system personnel at the annual State meeting. This plan was adopted by the Jackson County School System on June 30, 2022 and will be in effect for the 2022-2023 academic school year. The school system will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2022.