

Jasper County Charter System Family and Engagement Policy/Plan

School Year 2023-2024

Revision Date- June 1st, 2023

Local Educational Agency (LEA) District and School Level

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement is 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, the Jasper County Charter System (JCCS) 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 JCCS'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 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. The JCCS 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 Title I Input and Revision meeting in May 2023, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year. The district sent a flier and Remind message to all parents informing them about the meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website, as well as through social media platform-Facebook. During this meeting, parents reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), and the school's Comprehensive Improvement Plans, in addition to how the 1% set-aside for Family Engagement should be spent. Additionally, each Title I School Governance Team and faculty review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the 2022-2023 school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. 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 2023 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, as well as link on school compacts to access all of the Title I documents. Links to the documents will be available in the monthly Family Engagement Newsletters. All documents will be available to parents in a format and language they can understand in the front office and on each school webpage.

Communications

JCCS 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 parents can monitor their child's progress.

Strengthening Our School

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

Additionally, the district will perform compact and inventory checks in October with each school to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year, as well as check for compact and inventory compliance.

Reservation of Funds

The JCCS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2023-2024 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the JCCS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to 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. JCCS discussed with parents suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level at the Annual Title I Input and Revision Meeting held in June 2023. Input/Feedback Forms and minutes from these meetings were 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 suggestions, please contact the Federal Program Director- Susan Stone at the district office at 706-468-6350 or the local school's family engagement coordinator.

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 that are 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.

Annual Title I Input and Revision Meeting ~June 1st 2023 @ 9am and June 5th, 2023

During this week, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable 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 information shared via webpage and social media to notify families about the date and time of the meeting. All information will also be made available on the District website and 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 for parents to provide their comments. Survey will be sent to families in Spring 2023.

Annual Title I Meeting~August 15th

At the beginning of the school year, Jasper County Charter System will host a district-wide meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I. The meeting will be held at various times and locations. Flyers and information will be sent home and posted prior to the meeting date.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit <https://www.jasper.k12.ga.us/domain/155> to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input. All documents will be provided on the school and district website. Voice over presentation will be available following the meetings.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, all Title I schools, 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, reviewed at parent/teacher conferences. Please sign and return the Compact Signature Sheet to school the first week of school.

Building Capacity

The JCCS 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 JCCS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. The district FEC will provide training and support through professional development to help teachers and families address academic goals through resources and learning activities.

Of Parents – The JCCS 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 use of its online student information system (Infinite Campus and SLDS) to monitor child's progress and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its Media Specialist. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

Parent workshops will be held face to face and virtually.

In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and newsletters containing strategies to improve at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at the District Family Resource Center, including copies in Spanish, upon request.

The District Focus Groups and School Governance Teams, made up of parent representatives from each Title I school, advises the district and schools on all matters related to family engagement and academic success within the school. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the council. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through face to face meetings, video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.

The JCCS 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. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Round-Up days, Middle and High School Transition Events, and College and Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Of School Staff – The JCCS will conduct four training sessions during the school year for principals and Family Engagement Team 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 JCCS will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments, value and utility of contributions of parents, implement and coordinate parent programs, build ties between parents and the school, and discuss how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners. Training is required to be held two times per semester at each school. Schools will schedule the training with the District Family Engagement Coordinator. A google classroom will be provided for the staff to access materials for reference and secondary method of communication.

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, and provide interpreters at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, Remind, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the JCCS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey. Additional surveys will be provided as needed.

Beginning in the Spring, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link or QR Code to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will provide parents a survey at the end of each Parent Workshop to provide an opportunity for feedback. Title I services are designed to increase Family Engagement and provide parents and families opportunities to bridge the gap of learning from school to home.

The JCCS will use the findings from the Parent Workshop Surveys and the annual 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.

National PTA's Standards for Family-School Partnerships -
The JCSS Parent Involvement Policy/Plan acknowledges the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships
in an effort to build/increase parent capacity:

Standard I: Welcoming all Families—Parents are welcome in the schools, and their support and assistance are sought.

Standard II: Communicating Effectively— Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful. **Standard III: Supporting Student Success**—Families and school staff collaborate on a continuous basis to support student learning. **Standard IV: Speaking up for Every Child**—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children.

Standard V: Sharing Power—Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families

PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

The Parent Resource Center is available to parents during regular business office hours Monday–Friday from 8:00 am–4:00 pm. Additional times to visit may be scheduled. If resources are needed after hours, Parents/Families are encouraged to visit the Family Engagement Website and newsletters that provide 24 hr. access to resources online

Visit the webpage link below to access family engagement information and resources from the JCCS Family Engagement webpage:
<https://tinyurl.com/JCCSBuildingparentcapacity>.

Resources that you may checkout:

- Educational Resources Academic/Community Brochures/Pamphlets
- Content Materials
- Leveled Reading Books
- Manipulatives And much more!

For more information about the resources available, please school Title I representative.