



Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2023-24 School Year



What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities ensuring that:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education;
- Parents and families 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; and
- Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



Purpose

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Cherokee County School District (CCSD) receives Title I, Part A funds and, therefore, must jointly develop with, agree on with and distribute to parents of participating children a written District Parent and Family Engagement Plan that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of ESSA. This plan establishes the District's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and family partnerships in the District's Title I schools. Additionally, this plan describes CCSD's commitment to engage families, including neglected and delinquent facility representatives, in the education of their children. It also focuses on building capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve District and student academic achievement goals.

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 plans, and in carrying out the District and school improvement provisions. CCSD and its Title I schools will ensure that:

- Programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of families in schools with Title I, Part A programs are planned and implemented with meaningful parent consultation;
- The required School Parent and Family Engagement Plan meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) and includes, as a component, a School-Parent Compact;
- The District and schools receiving Title I, Part A funds, to the extent practicable, will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, with disabilities, of migratory children, with limited literacy, who are economically disadvantaged or are of any racial or ethnic minority background;
- To the extent practicable, provide information and school reports required under Section 1111 of ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternate formats upon request and in a language parents understand; and
- If the Title I, Part A plan is not satisfactory to parents of participating children, the District will submit any comments with the plan to the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).



Parent and Family Engagement Plan Annual Evaluation

Each year, CCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the family engagement activities with meaningful involvement of parents and family members. The focus is to improve the academic quality of Title I schools. In the spring, each Title I school will provide access to a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding parent and family engagement activities and programs. This survey will also be posted on the school websites for families to complete. In addition, each Title I school will use their Title I Revision Meeting to garner input from stakeholders regarding Title I services and needs to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement. CCSD will use the stakeholder input from the Title I Revision Meetings and the survey results to:

- Design strategies to improve effective family engagement;
- Identify and support needs of parents and family members with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers;
- Support successful school and family interactions;
- Remove possible barriers to parent and family participation in activities including for parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy or are of any racial or ethnic minority background; and
- Revise its Parent and Family Engagement Plans.



Jointly Developed and Reviewed

CCSD will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the joint development of its plan as required by ESSA:

- Conduct a meeting of District stakeholders to provide input into the District's Consolidated Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP) which includes the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, the District Improvement Plan and the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan;
- Post the CLIP on the District website and gather input electronically;
- Notify all stakeholders of the District meeting through multiple means of communication;
- Share the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan at the school Title I meetings, in school Parent Resource Centers and on school websites; and
- Receive comments or feedback on the plan at any time.

CCSD will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the process of school review and improvement required by ESSA:

- Invite and encourage parents and stakeholders to attend school level annual Title I Revision Meetings in the spring to update the Schoolwide Plan;
- Notify parents and families that a school has been identified as needing improvement and the implications of this status, if applicable;
- Survey parents and families annually at the Title I schools to determine strengths and areas for improvement;
- Administer District surveys, as needed, (i.e Cognia accreditation and Strategic Plan Survey and Student Survey) for school improvement planning; and
- Share each school's Executive Summary of the School Improvement Plan with parents and families at Board of Education Meetings, which are open to the public, through school council and through the school's website.



Reservation of Funds

CCSD will reserve one percent of the total amount of Title I, Part A funds it receives in the 2023-2024 school year to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in ESSA. Furthermore, CCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their school-level family engagement programs and activities with a priority given to high-needs schools. 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 spring, families are given the opportunity to participate and be involved in decisions regarding the use of parent and family engagement funds through an annual parent survey and Title I Revision Meetings where the budget is shared and areas of need are discussed. Funds reserved by the District shall be used to carry out activities and strategies that will include providing:

- Professional development for District and school staff on parent and family engagement strategies;
- Resources for families to utilize at school and in the home; and
- Information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement.





Building Capacity

CCSD, with the assistance of its Title I schools, will build the capacity for strong and effective engagement of families as well as support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, families and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

Of Parents and Families

The District will build capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials, training and assistance on the following topics:

- Literacy;
- Using technology including the education about the harms of copyright piracy;
- The challenging State academic standards (Georgia Standards of Excellence);
- State (Georgia Milestones) and local assessments including alternate assessments;
- Requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.

Title I schools will offer activities for parents and families including:

- Hosting Curriculum Night in the fall to provide information to parents and families regarding content standards, assessments, how to monitor their child's progress and how to use technology to improve academic achievement;
- Providing ongoing parent and family workshops throughout the school year focused on support in ELA, math, science and/or social studies;
- Sharing resources through the website and Parent Resource Rooms; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request.

Of School Staff

CCSD, with the assistance of its schools and families, will educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders and other staff, with the assistance of parents, on the following:

- The value and utility of contributions of parents;
- How to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners;
- How to implement and coordinate parent programs;
- Building ties between parents and the school;
- Reviewing feedback from parents and discussing activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- Implementing an effective means of outreach to parents of all English learners;
- Providing notice and information to parents of all English learners in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that parents can understand; and
- Providing other reasonable support for parent involvement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request.

Parent Engagement Facilitators and/or District staff will provide two staff trainings at the Title I schools through meetings and ongoing communication each semester. Resources on best practices will also be provided to schools by the District.





Strengthening our Schools through Technical Assistance

CCSD will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that effective strategies and activities are being implemented to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The District will provide training, resources and support to Title I schools to strengthen family engagement and build capacity of participating schools.

The Director, Federal Programs and/or designee will:

- Meet at least quarterly with Parent Engagement Facilitators to provide assistance in planning and improving services to parents and families;
- Provide ongoing technical assistance through individual meetings, emails and/or phone calls;
- Review and share resources provided by the GaDOE Family-School Partnership;
- Participate in GaDOE sponsored training;
- Stay current on research in the area of family engagement; and
- Coordinate, as appropriate, with organizations with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.



Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the Director, Federal Programs and/or designee will communicate and collaborate with the Division of School Operations to ensure full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for informed participation of parents and family members (including those with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children). The District shall also provide information, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand. Interpreters will also be provided at Title I Parent Engagement events.



Coordination of Services

CCSD will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other Federal, State and local programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their child. Programs include Bright from the Start, Early Intervention Program, Language Instruction for English Learners, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and Career, Technical and Agricultural Education. CCSD will provide support to schools on:

- Coordinating parent engagement events for families;
- Providing resources for student transition to elementary and middle school; and
- Identifying roles for other organizations, businesses and community partners to provide support as appropriate.





Adoption

This District 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. It will be in effect for the 2023-2024 School Year. The District will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents and families of children attending Title I schools no later than October 31, 2023.

CHEROKEE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Kyla Cromer, Board Chair

Robert Rechsteiner, Vice Chair

John Harmon, Patsy Jordan, Susan Padgett-Harrison, Kelly Poole and Erin Ragsdale

Dr. Brian V. Hightower, Superintendent of Schools

Educating the Emerging Generation

Contact Information

Lynda Wallace

Director, Federal Programs

lynda.wallace@cherokeek12.net

1205 Bluffs Parkway

P.O. Box 769

Canton, GA 30114

770.479.1871



Cherokee County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or disability in its programs, activities or employment practices.