

ATHENS CITY SCHOOLS DISTRICT
PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN
(Revised October 2022)

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Athens City School System agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school system will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A, programs, consistent with Section 1118, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies and plans meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112, of the ESEA.*
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A, parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of homeless and migrant children; and will supply information and school reports required under Section 1111, of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112, of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, these comments will be submitted along with the school district plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, 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 at school;*
- (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 completion of other activities, such as those described in section 1118, of the ESEA.*

PART II. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Five parent representatives serve on the Athens City School District Advisory Committee as active participants in developing, revising and improving the **District Parent and Family Engagement Plan**. In addition, all parents were given the opportunity to review the **District Parent and Family Engagement Plan** and offer their input before the plan was approved. The **LEA Title I Plan** along with the **District Parent and Family Engagement Plan** will be reviewed annually by the parent representatives and the District Advisory Committee members to determine if changes are needed.

1. The Athens City School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its **District Parent and Family Engagement Plan** under Section 1112, of the ESEA:
 - Conduct a district Parent Advisory Council meeting to develop or review the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan
 - Invite parents to be a part of each school's Continuous Improvement Plan committee
 - Invite parents to attend parent involvement sessions at each school
 - Conduct parent meetings at flexible times to accommodate parent schedules

2. The Athens City School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116, of the ESEA:
 - Request input from the District Advisory Committee concerning revisions of the **District Parent and Family Engagement Plan**.
 - Conduct evaluations/surveys at the end of the school year seeking input on activities, training, and materials to be offered for the next school term.
 - Review survey results to determine program changes that are needed.
 - Invite parents to each school's annual Title I parent meeting and other parental involvement sessions.

3. The Athens City School System will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title 1, Part A, schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement:
 - Inform parents by scheduling informational guest speakers for parent involvement meetings.
 - Update Athens City Schools' website to include information for parents concerning state tests, community and school activities for parents, and student support services.
 - Develop literacy lessons for assisting students at home with timed readings, nonsense words, comprehension, etc.
 - Invite and involve parents in arranging school-wide evening activities (e.g. multicultural dinner, popcorn & movie night, technology night, family reading night, PTO, Open House, and Book Fair).

4. The Athens City School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under the following other programs (Head Start, preschool, Baby Talks, Kids and Kin) by:
 - Providing parental involvement activities and materials to our preschool programs funded by special education and the office of school readiness.
 - Educating parents on strategies to help children in math and reading.
 - Conducting transition visits to elementary schools in the spring.
 - Assisting parents with kindergarten enrollment.
 - Communicating with Head Start and preschool coordinators.
 - Promoting Baby Talks and Kids and Kin Programs.

5. The Athens City School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and

effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools:

- Review, evaluate, and revise the **District Parent and Family Engagement Plan** annually.
- Provide a parent survey in the spring for the purpose of analyzing results to be used in revising the Parent and Family Engagement Plans at the school and district level.
 - Title I teachers at each Title I school will distribute the survey to all parents. Title I teachers will analyze the survey results to determine program effectiveness and plan activities for more effective parental involvement. Survey results will be used to plan district parental involvement activities and to update policies when needed.

6. The Athens City School System will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities:

A. The school system will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the Title I program, in understanding the following topics:

- State academic content standards,
- State and local academic assessments,
- Title I, Part A requirement,
- English language acquisition
- Progress monitoring and
- Working with educators:
 - Examine College and Career- Ready Standards .
 - Provide training for parents of participating children in understanding state and local assessments.
 - Monitor student progress.
 - Send home student progress reports as scheduled.
 - Provide assistance in scheduling home visits when necessary.
 - Communicate with parents and educators by providing a translator when needed for individual conferences.
 - Offer English language acquisition opportunities
 - Mail student achievement and state assessment results to parents and provide information about state performance standards, schools' accountability data and proficiency levels in a timely manner.
 - Conduct annual Title I parent meeting to share information regarding Title I services and parents' rights to be involved in their child's education.

- B.** The Athens City School System will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training and to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
- Communicating important information to parents through newsletters, e-mails, school website, etc.
 - Designing parent meetings with the purpose of showing the connection between technology and student learning.
 - Providing supervised opportunities during the summer to take Accelerated Reader tests at the schools.
 - Offering parent/guardian technology and/or literacy training.
 - Purchasing materials (in English and Spanish) for parents to learn how they can help their child be successful.
 - Holding parenting classes which may include strategies for reading with your child, improving reading fluency or comprehension, creating a home learning environment, working as a partner with your child's teacher, learning the English language, and/or being healthy and safe.
 - Conducting parent literacy activities at the school.
- C.** The Athens City School System will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff to reach out, to communicate, to work with, and value the contributions of parents as equal partners by participating in the following:
- Providing family literacy activities such as visits to schools by informational speakers and authors of children's literature.
 - Making resources available in the parent resource center with an emphasis on Family Literacy.

- Working with teachers and administrators through in-services, faculty meetings, and grade-level meetings in understanding the importance of parental involvement.
- Distributing meeting notes from the District Advisory Committee meetings to the local schools.

D. The Athens City School System will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Promoting the Kids and Kin program
- Contacting Head Start and preschool coordinators to offer assistance and plan strategies for involving parents of preschool children in parent involvement activities

E. The Athens City School System will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- Translate all forms provided by the district nurse.
- Translate student handbooks.
- Publish kindergarten registration information in the local Hispanic newspaper.
- Translate documents pertaining to attendance.
- Send translated forms, letters, etc., to parents with limited English proficiency, when practicable.
- Utilize TransACT services and MasterWord translation services provided by the Alabama State Department of Education.
- Employ a district-wide parent liaison who is fluent in Spanish.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

The Athens City School System agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Include parent suggestions in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonable, available sources of funding for that training;
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, for parents who are unable to attend school conferences and in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education.
 - Adopt and implement model approaches for improving parental involvement;
 - Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title 1, Part A, programs;
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118, as parent may request.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title 1, Part A, programs, as evidenced by Federal Programs Administrator, Jennifer Sallee.

This policy (# IHADA) was adopted by the Athens City School System on 02/17/05 and will be reviewed annually. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A, children on or before the end of the first grading period of each academic year.

Reviewed on September 29, 2021

Plan Approved By **Jennifer Sallee**

Date 10/03/22