



# LEE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

## Lee County School System Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2024-2025 Revised June 2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Lee County School System** receives more than \$500,000 in Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The LCSS will reserve at least one percent of its Title I funds for family engagement initiatives and activities. The LCSS will involve stakeholders in the decisions as to how these funds are used. The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

### **The Lee County School System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request 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, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA

## **DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

### **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The **Lee County School System** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

This policy is reviewed throughout each school year and updated annually. Sources used in the development of this policy include individual school meetings, completed workshop evaluations, and annual parent survey results. This policy is posted on our system website where it is available for parent comments and suggestions. This policy is subject to review and revision.

### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The **Lee County School System** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- The Federal Programs Director will provide guidance and support on appropriate use of parental involvement funds and review School Parental Involvement Processes, Plans and School-Parent Compacts to ensure compliance.
- The Federal Programs Director, in coordination with the Family Engagement Coordinator, will provide professional learning opportunities for LCSS staff throughout the year in order to build their capacity in building and fostering relationships among families.
- The Federal Programs Director will hold monthly federal programs meetings with school leaders in order to provide reminders and information that will enable them to effectively

implement federal programs. These meetings will include necessary information for family engagement.

- Family Engagement Coordinator will work with schools to determine the support needed for families in supporting their children academically. The coordinator will provide learning opportunities for families through in person events, school webpages, and Parent Square (the district wide communication platform).

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The **Lee County School System** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- Parents are surveyed annually to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through implementation of the parent engagement processes. The findings of this survey are used to develop strategies for school improvement and/or revise the system Parent Involvement policy. These findings are also used in planning future parent workshops and meetings. Areas evaluated include academic and school leadership, parent involvement, Title I, school climate and the school Parent Engagement Program.
- Stakeholders to include community, business, religious, and secondary education members are invited to attend an Annual Stakeholder Meeting in the spring where they have the opportunity to provide input on district improvement initiatives and the family engagement plan.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The **Lee County School System** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

The school district will provide written communication in a language parents can understand when possible and feasible. Each school offers parents the opportunity to give feedback on the 1% reservation of funds by surveying the parents.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The **Lee County School System** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: Head Start, Family Connections and Pre-K, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Schools will work closely with early education programs to coordinate parent involvement efforts to have a greater impact on the community. The school district and all schools will promote Family Connections in the system.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The **Lee County School System** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards
  - Provide presentations at Curriculum Nights, Math and Reading Nights
  - Provide information at parent conferences
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
  - Where to access information about state assessments on the LCSS webpage
  - Understand what assessments are used and why
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
  - Annual Title I Parent Meetings are held at the schools each fall to provide information about the Title I program offered and how students are selected to participate in the program
  - Information for parents and families can be found on the district website on the "Federal Programs" tab
- How to monitor their child's progress
  - Provide progress and report cards,
  - Conduct parent-teacher conferences. Parents can request a conference at any time,
  - Provide opportunities for parents and families to learn how to support children's learning at Family Nights
- Transitioning support for families and children:
  - Events are scheduled each year to provide for easy transition from Pre-K to kindergarten, from primary to elementary school, elementary to middle school, and for high school: selecting career pathways, course enrollment, and graduation/college/career counseling
- How to work with educators
  - Provide opportunities for all parents and family members to participate in the development of the school's School-Parent Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Policy,

- Provide opportunities for parents to provide feedback in the district's and school's surveys

Title I teachers at each school and the Title I Director will provide information and workshops for parents on topics including preparing for Milestones Assessments, the school's curriculum, understanding the Title I program and how it benefits their children, and ways to monitor progress. Take-home materials are often provided, as well as childcare for these events.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The **Lee County School System** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

LCSS Federal Programs Director, along with the district parent engagement coordinator, will partner with and provide all Title I school principals and staff members with trainings and technical assistance throughout the school year to emphasize the importance of and increase family engagement, improve communication, create welcoming environments, provide information in a family-friendly language, and strategies for responding to parents requests in a positive, supportive and beneficial manner. Trainings are redelivered to the faculty and staff of the Title I schools, and district Title I staff will conduct visits to each Title I school to review family engagement requirements and initiatives.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

The **Lee County School System** recognizes the importance of parental involvement and stakeholder collaboration toward improving student achievement, and as such will seek to build the capacity for involvement by promoting the following discretionary activities under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA:

- Paying 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
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- Maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Developing opportunities for parents to volunteer in school activities or serve as tutors
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities

## **ADOPTION**

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This policy was updated by the Lee County School System on and will be in effect for the period of the 2024-2025 school year.

**Family Engagement Contacts:**

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