



# DIVISION OF State Schools

*Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent*  
*"Educating Georgia's Future"*

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

The Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD), The Atlanta Area School for  
the Deaf (AASD), The Georgia Academy for the Blind (GAB)  
Updated on May 24, 2023; Reviewed June 10, 2024

### **PART 1**

#### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The GaDOE State Schools Division 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/guardians of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians/guardians can understand.

- The GaDOE State Schools Division will provide the schools with sample letters and others notices to be used when notifying/inviting all parents/guardians for the above.
- The GaDOE State Schools Division will note that sign in sheets must contain the role of the stakeholders involved.
- School personnel will invite all parents/guardians to participate in the planning and revision of the Title I School Parent Plan, School Parent/Guardian Compact, Schoolwide Plan. The Title I Director will invite all parents/guardians to participate in the planning and revisions of the
  - District Parent Involvement Plan, and Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)
- All GaDOE State Schools that receive funds under this part shall develop a written parent involvement plan, jointly and in agreement with parents/guardians, to be distributed to parents/guardians of participating children.
- The GaDOE State Schools Division will self-monitor to determine if the required elements and timelines for involving parents/guardians in the planning and revising of the District Parental Involvement Plan and CLIP are met. The GaDOE State Schools Division will use these procedures and the District Involvement Parental Plan Checklist to conduct the monitoring.
- The State Schools Division will utilize the school-level Annual Title I Parental Engagement Meeting as an opportunity to distribute the revised GaDOE State Schools Division Parental Involvement Plan.
- The GaDOE State Schools Division will ensure that all three State Schools will post the updated GaDOE State Schools Division Parent and Family Engagement Policy to their individual websites.

## PART II.

### **DESCRIPTION OF HOW GADOE STATE SCHOOLS DIVISION WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED GADOE STATE SCHOOLS DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS**

1. The **GaDOE State Schools Division** will take the following actions to involve parents/guardians in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under Section 1116 of the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA).

A. Each school within the GaDOE State Schools Division will conduct a Parent and Family Engagement meeting annually. The GaDOE State Schools Division will ensure its schools communicate with parents/guardians through a variety of platforms including the website, email, newsletters, flyers calls/text messages, postcards and other home mailings in a timely manner.

2. The **GaDOE State Schools Division** will take the following actions to involve parents/guardians in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESSA:

- A. Conduct the Annual Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) meeting.
- B. Provide parents/guardians an opportunity to share on-going feedback.
- C. Provide interpreters/translators for parents/guardians during meetings.

3. The **GaDOE State Schools Division** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

- A. GaDOE State Schools Division level support for Parent and Family Engagement includes: Director of the Division of State Schools, GaDOE State Schools Division Parent Mentor, GaDOE State Schools Division Title I Coordinator, GaDOE Program Specialists and Administrative supports.
- B. Regional Parent/Guardian Meetings (RPM).
- C. Teams Meeting access allowing parents to attend meeting from anywhere.
- D. GaDOE State Schools Division level training for parents/guardians and staff and support from outside sources as requested, available, and /or required.

4. The **GaDOE State Schools Division** will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs such as:

- A. Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) Toddler Class for children who are deaf/hard of hearing, along with their parents/guardians and siblings, occurring at least once a week.
- B. Georgia Parent Infant Network for Educational Services (GaPINES)
- C. Atlanta Speech School
- D. GA Organization of Parents/guardians of Blind Children (GOPAC)
- E. Georgia Pathway to Literacy
- F. Accessible Materials Program (AMP)
- G. Described and Captioned Media Program
- H. Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)
- I. Tools for Life
- J. GA Parent Mentor Partnership
- K. Parent to Parent of Georgia
- L. Center for Visually Impaired

5. The **GaDOE State Schools Division** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents/guardians, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement policy towards improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/guardians in parental involvement activities. The GaDOE State Schools Division will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parent and Family Engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents/guardians) plan.

- A. Complete a program evaluation facilitated by the Federal Programs Coordinator and School Level Parental Involvement coordinators using GaDOE Checklist to self-monitor.
- B. Solicit feedback from parents/guardians from State Schools GaDOE State Schools Division-wide parent survey.
- C. The GaDOE State Schools Division will monitor schools to determine if required elements and timelines for involving parents/guardians in the planning, and revisions of the policy, schoolwide plans, School/Parent Compact and the Title II Equity Plan. The GaDOE State Schools Division will monitor schools using the following procedures and GaDOE checklists: Schoolwide Program Checklist, District Parent and Family Engagement Checklist, School Level Parental Involvement Plan Checklist, School-Parent/Guardian Compact Checklist and each School Level Needs Assessment Worksheet. These are facilitated by the Federal Programs Coordinator and School Level Parental Involvement coordinators using the GaDOE Checklist to self-monitor annually and maintained in our Title I Monitoring Repository (Title I Crate).
- D. Solicit policy feedback in each school.

- 6. The **GaDOE State Schools Division** will build the schools' and parents/guardians' capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents/guardians and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents/guardians, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below. **\*The State Schools Division's allocation is less than \$500,000 therefore, we are not required to reserve 1 percent of the Title 1 allocation for parent and family engagement. Parent and family input however, is solicited when determining how funds should be used to effectively support student and parent/family activities.**

- A. The GaDOE State Schools Division will, with assistance from its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents/guardians of children served by the GaDOE State Schools Division or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - the State's academic content standards
  - the State's student academic achievement standards
  - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments.
  - the requirements of Part A
  - how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators
  - how to access other supportive local resources
  - understanding the IEP process
  - understanding transition resources

GaDOE State Schools Division will provide support during:

1. Regional Parent Meetings (RPM's)
2. Annual Title I Parental Involvement Meeting – School Level
3. Parent/Guardian/Family Workshops

4. School Council meetings, individual appointments, and IEP meeting support
5. Family Engagement Conferences hosted by GaDOE or related external conferences

B. The GaDOE State Schools Division will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents/guardians work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy and math training as well as using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

1. Providing the Accessible Materials Program – accessible materials in English/ASL/Spanish
2. Offering parent trainings on instructional resources and tools
3. Assisting parent/guardians in accessing transition services
4. Providing access to Braille and ASL training

C. The GaDOE State Schools Division will, with the assistance of its schools and parents/guardians, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, superintendents, and assistant principals and other staff, regarding how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents/guardians as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions to parents/guardians, and how to implement and coordinate parent/guardian programs and build communication between parents/guardians and schools, by:

1. Providing Professional Learning for all staff
2. Inviting local school leaders to attend leader training provided by GaDOE
3. Collaborating with Family Engagement Coordinators in each school

D. The GaDOE State Schools Division will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents/guardians as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and provide other resources, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents/guardians more fully participating in the education of their children, by offering:

1. Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) Toddler Class for children who are deaf/hard of hearing, along with their parents/guardians, and siblings), occurring twice weekly
2. Providing Family Resources centers/rooms at each State School
3. Weekly correspondence and newsletter that offer events calendar, opportunities for questions and support and ongoing resources
4. Social media platforms to provide family and academic support information, highlights of events and accessibility to staff

E. The GaDOE State Schools Division 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/guardians of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents/guardians can understand:

- a. Share parental and familial communications in the languages and formats warranted based on student population
- b. Utilize various forms of media to communicate with parents/guardians
- c. Provide language translation at meetings as needed

F. The GaDOE State Schools Division will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1116 as parents/guardians may request.

1. Plan parental involvement events so that parents/guardians may share ideas, as funds are available to support initiatives.
  - a. Georgia Academy for the Blind's (GAB) Short Course Weekends; After School Programs; Parent/guardian Programs during Braille Challenge
  - b. Provide opportunities where funding is available to send parent/guardians to the State Family Engagement Conference (whenever offered)
  - c. Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) Toddler Playgroup for children, who are deaf/hard of hearing.
  - d. Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD) Summer Enrichment Programs
  - e. GAB Summer Enrichment Program
  - f. Free American Sign Language (ASL) classes

