Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
Traditional Template

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Gainesville City Schools
School Year 2025 - 2026
Revision Date 07/31/2025

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, [Gainesville City School System] receives 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 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 [Gainesville City 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.

- 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 federal law.

- 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 ESSA, 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/family engagement 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:

  Family engagement 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 ESSA

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

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Gainesville City 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 ESSA:

- *Share the current GCSS LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan and obtain parent input through discussion or use of feedback forms regarding revisions to the plan use of parent and family engagement funds in the following places: at school parent events; on the district and school websites; copies available at school resource centers.*
- *Use multimedia distribution (Parent link, flyers, newspaper articles, school newsletters, district/school websites) and multiple languages to the extent feasible.*
- *Collect input from parents through District Parent Surveys and during parent evaluation/input meetings (virtual or in-person).*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Gainesville City 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 engagement 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:

- *Host district meetings for school level administrators, Title I staff, and Parent and Family Engagement Parent Liaisons in order to review Title I Parent and Family Engagement*

requirements, and offer professional learning on topics such as parent engagement strategies and building parent and staff capacity.

- *Review individual school compacts, parent and family engagement plans, and other documentation in order to maintain compliance with federal regulations, state guidance, and to show that documents were developed jointly with parent feedback. The LEA contact will provide input to school level administrators to ensure that all documents meet compliance.*

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Gainesville City School System** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement 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 engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- *Climate Surveys (DOE)*
- *LEA Parent and Family Engagement Annual Title I Survey (LEA PFE Contact)*
- *GCSS ASPIRE Parent Surveys (Special Education Coordinators)*
- *Measure parent participation at events using sign-ins (Principals, Parent Liaisons)*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Gainesville City 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 district will inform parents that Parent and Family engagements funds are consolidated and are therefore a part of the school's overall budget during the annual Title I meeting.*
- *Parents are provided opportunities during community partnership meetings as well as during the annual parent meeting to give input on how funds are spent.*

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Gainesville City 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: ***[GCSS GA Pre-K, Head Start, McKinney-Vento, Special Education, Migrant Education Program, Boys and Girls Club, Center Point, United Way, The Department of Family and Children Services,***

District 2 Public Health, Hall County Family Connections, Head Start] that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- *Offering Pre-K housed at all GCSS elementary schools, and providing preschool for students with special needs.*
- *Partnering with Head Start to provide support for children with special needs.*
- *Providing resources needed to schools to host Parent and Family Engagement events so that parents can work alongside staff to develop ideas for home carryover activities.*
- *Hosting parent meetings at schools regarding coordination of services and district wide transition from one transitional level to the next.(ie PreK – K, 5th – 6th, 8th – 9th)*
- *Providing Parent Resource Centers with reasonable access for parents at all schools during regular school hours. Virtual and phone conferences are provided when needed.*
- *Provide services for families who qualify for the Migrant Education Program including: support services for Preschool (ages 3 – 5) with School Readiness, tutorial services, supplemental academic support, in-class tutoring, before/after school programs, in-home services including family literacy services to the child, and progress monitoring of Project Plan Measurable Outcomes (MPOs) for P3s, P4s, and P5s. Virtual services and learning packets are provided as needed.*
- *Actively recruiting (in-person and virtually) migrant families throughout the year to identify P3s, P4s, and P5s needing to be enrolled in formal preschool or the GA Pre-K program. If spacing isn't available at the time of certification of eligibility, students are prioritized and placed on a waiting list. In-home services are provided in the interim.*
- *Provide access and referrals to The Hub student/family services center which provides a variety of resources to students and families including academic support for both enrichment and intervention, mental behavioral health support, college and career advisement, and basic needs*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Gainesville City School System** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement 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
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

- *Schools host a variety of activities to build parents' capacity for strong family engagement. They include but are not limited to: Parent Nights for Literacy, Curriculum and Assessment, STEM, applying for colleges and scholarships; utilizing online learning tools; annual feedback meetings; annual Title I meetings; parent volunteer days. These events take place in person or virtually depending on the health status of the community.*

- *Each school has a Parent Liaison who helps communicate the needs of the families to the schools and vice versa. Schools utilize Language Line and Translate Live devices to promote better home-communication in order to build successful partnerships with*

families. Translators are provided (to the extent feasible) at conferences and events to promote two-way communication and promote engagement.

- *Schools provide Parent Resource Centers stocked with parent supplies, resources, and bilingual books to promote engagement and literacy.*
- *The GCSS district utilizes Infinite Campus Messenger, its website, and newsletters to notify parents of school and class schedules, report cards, upcoming events, important dates, and up-to-date information on community health and weather events.*
- *The Hub student/family services center provides a variety of resources to students and families including academic support for both enrichment and intervention, mental behavioral health support, college and career advisement, and basic needs.*
- *The Herd is a collection of buses that goes out into the community and provides a way to extend and supplement services offered in the Hub for families who cannot access the Hub. GCSS partners with Hall County Family Connections to provide supplies, staff, and services on the Herd.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Gainesville City 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:

- *The GCSS district provides professional development opportunities for administrators, teachers, and other personnel including Parent Liaisons by providing resources and tools to build effective partnerships in the form of GaDOE PFE support training videos and other GaDOE PFE resources. Technical assistance is provided as needed in any area of PFE through the PFE District Coordinator/Federal Programs Director.*
- *The district employs a variety of special population leads and coordinators (ESOL, Special Education, Gifted, and Instructional) to provide professional learning to teachers and staff on best practices for meeting the unique needs of all of our families.*
- *Schools utilize PLCs and at-risk software to analyze data to determine the academic, behavioral, and SEL needs of their students which strengthens the school-home partnership.*
- *Schools provide mentor teachers to build capacity with new teachers.*
- *Each school has a Parent Liaison who helps communicate the needs of the families to the schools and vice versa. Schools utilize Language Line and Translate Live devices to promote better school to home communication in order to build successful partnerships with families. Translators are provided (to the extent feasible) at conferences and events to promote two communication and promote engagement.*
- *Schools select staff members to attend conferences and workshops like PBIS, RTI, and Trauma-Informed practices to build their capacity in understanding best practices for engaging students and families.*

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

☐ Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training

- ☐ Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- ☐ Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
    - *Transportation costs, light refreshments (at some events), and translators are provided to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.*
- ☐ Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
- ☐ Maximize family engagement 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
    - *To maximize engagement and participation, schools host a variety of options for their meetings and events including in-person, virtual, and by phone.*
- ☐ Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
    - *Our Parent Liaisons work with families who opt to have their children participate in virtual learning to ensure family friendly interactions and strong two-way communication between the family and school. Professional development on how to support special populations in a way that supports health and safety guidelines is provided as needed.*
    - *We partner with secondary colleges and universities to host informational meetings for families about post-secondary options.*
- ☐ Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- ☐ Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities
    - *The Hub student/family services center and The Herd (community buses) will continue to strengthen already existing community partnerships, especially those with a focus on building capacity in the agencies to support specific academic and career-related advisement as well as mental and behavioral needs. CenterPoint provides faith-based mental health services and education to students and families.*
    - *We partner with United Way to provide Youth Mental Health First Aid training to our staff so that they are better equipped to support students with mental health wellness.*

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, as evidenced by

evaluative feedback and input through parent stakeholder surveys and Annual Title I evaluation meetings.

This policy was adopted by the __**Gainesville City School System**_____ on __**07/31/25**_____ and will be in effect for the period of the 2024-2025 school year. The school district will distribute this policy via the website to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 11/01/2025.

Shea Ray
(Signature of Authorized Official)

07.31.25
(Date)