

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY
ENGAGEMENT PLAN
2025- 2026



REVISION DATE
May 21, 2025



DISRUPTING FOR EXCELLENCE
**NEW LEVELS
HEIGHTS**



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 2025-2026 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 24, 2025**.

The Dekalb County School District Board of Education

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Dekalb County School District

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DeKalb County School District
Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2025-2026
Revised May 21, 2025

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents/guardians and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents/guardians play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents/guardians are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- That parents/guardians 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the DeKalb County School District (DCSD) has developed this LEA/School Combined Parent and Family Engagement Plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe DCSD's commitment to engage families in their children's education and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy school more. 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 plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents/guardians and family members in their children's education. The DCSD Parent Center Facilitators will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law, and each component will include a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

During the annual Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Meetings in March 2025, DeKalb County School District's Federal Programs invited parents/guardians to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district's Parent and Family Engagement Plan for the 2025- 2026 school year. The district posted an announcement on the school district website, social media platforms, and SchoolMessenger announcements (email and text).

During these meetings, stakeholders reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP). Additionally, the district shared the presentation and the electronic feedback form on the district's website and via SchoolMessenger announcements to review the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan during the input window.

Upon final revision, the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan was incorporated into the CLIP, which was submitted to the state. Parents/guardians were welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan using the electronic feedback form provided on the school district website. All feedback received by April 2025 was considered for revisions to this plan.

The district's plan is to post it on district and school websites, in school and area parent resource centers, and disseminate it during the Annual Title I school meetings in the Fall in a format and language that is easily accessible and understandable for all.



Communications

DeKalb County School District will communicate with all families and the community regularly regarding school-wide events and activities, through phone and text messages, emails, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The district and schools will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events to understand schools' academic standards and assessments as well as ways parents/guardians can monitor their child's progress.

Strengthening Our School

The Office of Federal Programs staff will continue to provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the Office of Federal Programs to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the Office of Federal Programs Area Title I Parent Center Facilitators will hold meetings and trainings with their Title I schools' Parent Liaisons and/or school Title I parent designees to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

DeKalb County School District meaningfully engages Title I parents/guardians and family members in deciding how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent. All Title I, Part A schools agree to consolidate 100% of the 1% Parent and Family Engagement Set-Aside to assist parents/guardians, students, and staff in all parent and family engagement activities.

The Title I Stakeholder Input window opened in the Spring of 2025 for parents and guardians to provide input and suggestions on how the family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year. The district reviewed comment cards, surveys, and minutes from these meetings to identify areas of need for the next school year and consider adjustments to the family engagement budget.



Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents/guardians, family members, and community partners are essential components of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents/guardians of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

Fall School Open House Meetings ~ Fall 2025

Each Title I school will host an Open House during Preplanning week to provide parents/guardians and the community an opportunity to become acclimated with the school year. Parents/guardians acquire a quick overview of school and class expectations as well as the curriculum. The Open House event also provides a chance for parents/guardians and school staff to establish and/or strengthen school community communication and cooperation for the upcoming year.

Annual Title I Meeting ~ Fall 2025

Each Title I school will host an Annual Title I Meeting before October 10th to inform parents/guardians about the expectations and guidelines of Title I. The school will address with parents/guardians what it means to be a Title I school.

Important documents, such as the School-Parent Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Policy, will also be shared with parents/guardians. Parents/guardians will be encouraged to ask clarifying questions and voice any concerns they have pertaining to Title I.

Curriculum Night ~ Fall 2025

We warmly invite all parents to explore their students' schedules, providing an opportunity to engage with teachers and understand class expectations. Join our dedicated Math, Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, and Specials/Connections educators as they share innovative learning strategies and valuable resources to support your child's academic success.

District-Wide Title I Family Engagement-Octoberfest ~ Fall 2025

Attention DCSD Title I families! Prepare for an exciting day brimming with interactive breakout sessions and vital resources designed for every member of your family. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with others, gain valuable knowledge, and foster growth together. Don't let this chance slip away—join us for a day of inspiration and learning!

Districtwide Title I Curriculum & Cuisine~ Fall 2025

All families within the DeKalb County School District's Title I program are warmly invited to join in an exciting interdisciplinary collaboration. This enriching program weaves together the dynamic worlds of Mathematics, the captivating narratives of History, the hands-on experiences of Career and Technical Education, and the delightful exploration of Cuisine. Come be a part of this engaging journey that promises to inspire and connect through learning!

Districtwide Title I Math Carnival ~ Spring 2026

All families with students attending a DCSD Title I school are invited to a fun event focused on enhancing math skills through engaging, hands-on activities. Led by teachers and students, this event will offer interactive sessions that promote collaboration and make math enjoyable. Join us for an exciting day of learning and community building!

Comprehensive Needs Assessment and District Improvement Meetings ~ Spring 2026

All stakeholders will be invited to hear the latest updates about the performance of DeKalb County School District as well as review and provide feedback on the revision of the District Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Notices regarding this meeting will be made available to all stakeholders in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school and district websites, social media, and emails.

School Stakeholder Input Meetings ~ Spring 2026

Each Title I school will host two meeting opportunities for parents/guardians and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies, and provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send invitations home in two or more ways to parents/guardians to notify them about the date and time of the meetings. Information regarding the School Stakeholder Input meetings will also be made available on school websites.

Input regarding the use of Title I funds for supporting family engagement programs can also be gathered through the annual Title I Parent and Family Engagement Survey. This survey will include questions about the family engagement budget and training provided to school staff for parents and guardians, allowing them to share their comments. If you are unable to attend these meetings, please visit the desired school's website to review the meeting documents and minutes and share your input.

Building Capacity

Parents/Guardians—DCSD will work with its Title I schools to assist parents/guardians in understanding state and district academic standards and other pertinent information related to their children’s learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program.

- Using technology including education about the harms of copyright piracy.
- The challenging State academic standards (Georgia Standards of Excellence);
- The district's curriculum.
- State (Georgia Milestones) and local assessments including alternate assessments to track student progress.
- How to monitor and improve their child’s progress.
- How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children

In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available upon request.

The DCSD Parent Advisory Council consists of parent representatives from each Title I school and provides guidance to the district and schools on issues related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to participate in the council. We encourage the involvement of all our partners by offering video conferencing and recording options to accommodate different schedules.

The DeKalb County School District will coordinate and integrate the district’s family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and Local laws and programs such as the local preschool program and other federal and state-funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten, Middle, and High School Transition workshops, and College and Career Readiness workshops so parents/guardians can receive best practices to support their children for the next stage of life.

School Staff - DCSD will assist schools with various training sessions during the school year.

- Principals and staff will learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents/guardians and the community.
- Training will be provided for appropriate school staff focused on creating welcoming environments.
- Online resources addressing several Family Engagement topics will be available to DCSD staff.
- School staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents/guardians’ preferred language.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, parent meetings, and activities is available to all parents/guardians/guardians, each Title I school is required to share information for parents/guardians and family members using the school’s identified communication platforms in an understandable language and uniform format. If applicable, interpreters will be available at parent events. The information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, and social media to post information to parents/guardians/guardians.

Annual Evaluation

Every year, DCSD will evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, as well as the family engagement activities aimed at improving the academic quality of Title I schools. This evaluation will be conducted through an annual parent survey and CLIP Stakeholder Input meetings.

In the spring, each Title I school will share a survey and email a link to the survey for parents/guardians to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents/guardians to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Stakeholder Input meetings to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. DCSD will use the responses from the CLIP Feedback, School Stakeholder Input meetings, and the survey results will inform strategies to enhance effective family engagement, eliminate potential barriers to parent/guardian participation, and update the parent and family engagement policies.

This year's evaluation responses will be addressed with the following opportunities:

- **Parent Champions-** Title I parents and guardians are encouraged to participate in our district-wide family engagement events for the 2025-2026 school year. These gatherings will feature a variety of activities designed to foster family involvement in our schools. Parents and guardians who attend the most events and redeliver the best practices learned at their local school PFE events will earn the title of "Parent Champion," recognizing their commitment to supporting education in our community. Join us in this initiative to honor the vital role of Title I families in enriching our students' experiences!
- **Marketing the Area Parent Engagement Centers-** To promote the use of the Area Title I centers by stakeholders, all locations will be renamed "**The Family Engagement Centers: The Next Level in Family Engagement.**" Additionally, we will boost marketing efforts on school and district websites, across DCSD social media platforms, and through signage at each location.
- **Online Title I Family Engagement Resources-** The district's Title I page will provide grade-level appropriate resources to further student achievement.
- **Evaluating PFE Data-** The district will pilot a new initiative designed to evaluate parent/guardian participation in district-wide and school-based family engagement events.

Accessibility

To fulfill the parent and family engagement requirements outlined in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Director of Federal Programs, along with his/her designee, will collaborate with the divisions throughout the district. This collaboration aims to ensure that all parents and family members—including those with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children—can participate meaningfully. The district is committed to providing information in a language that parents and guardians can understand whenever possible. When applicable, interpreters will be available at Title I Parent and Family Engagement events.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

In fulfilling the parent and family engagement requirements set forth by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Title I Director will work in close partnership with the district staff to ensure that parents and guardians with limited English proficiency, those with disabilities, and parents and guardians of migratory children have ample opportunities to participate. This includes providing information and school reports in a language that is accessible and understandable for all parents and guardians.