Calhoun County Schools

Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan

1. Statement of Purpose

The Calhoun County School District is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. To this end, we want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if school and home work together to promote high achievement by our children. Neither home nor school can do the job alone. Parents play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Grade level goals for the children of the school district will be distributed to all parents in the district, with the expectation that all students will work toward these goals. We recognize that some students may need the extra assistance available through the Title I program to reach those goals. The Calhoun County School District intends to include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program. The goal is a school-home partnership that will help all students in the district to succeed.

2. Parental Involvement in Developing the Policy

An Advisory Council consisting of parents, classroom teachers, members of the community, support staff, local school administrators, and central office staff will meet to develop and then review annually, our school district's Parental Involvement Policy. Our Advisory Council will be chosen from volunteers from each local school and each area of representation. Special attention will be given to recruiting parents of children in the Title I program.

3. Annual Meeting for Title I Parents (to be held in each school)

At the annual meeting for parents, which will be held by October 31, in each school in the district, parents will be given information about the Title I guidelines. They will be given copies of the district's current Parental Involvement Policy, and will be offered a chance to become involved in revising that policy as needed. People may volunteer to serve on committees at the local as well as district level.

The annual meeting will be held twice, for the convenience of parents (morning and afternoon/evening). Parents will be sent written notices about the meeting times and translation will be available upon request (Example: English to Spanish).

4. School-Parent Compact

According to the Title I regulations, each school must share responsibility with parents for high student performance by developing a school-parent-student compact jointly with the parents of children participating in the program. These compacts must outline how

parents, staff, and students will share responsibility for promoting high student achievement.

Parents will receive the compact from their child's school with a checklist of responsibilities that teachers, parents, and students will each have for helping students achieve their goals. Compacts will be reviewed at parent conferences and may be amended as needed.

5. Types of Parental Involvement

There are many ways in which parents can become involved with their children's education. This school district values both the at-home contributions and those which take place at school and in the community.

6. Matching Programs to the Needs of Our Community

Each year, the school district will assess the needs of parents and children in this community, through a variety of measures, so that the Title I program will be tailored to meeting those needs. Parents are encouraged to call their local school or the Central Office at any time to make suggestions. In eliminating barriers to parental participation, particular attention will be given to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.

7. Staff-Parent Communication

Communications with parents will include a Title I newsletter distributed monthly each school year. There will also be notices sent home with children.

8. Evaluation

The district-wide Title I Advisory Council will be involved in the process of school review and improvement. Parents of children in the Title I program will be part of this group. The aim will be to evaluate the schools in this district, collecting information in a variety of ways, including visits to the schools and observation of classes.

There will be an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Title I parental involvement program, and parents will be asked for their input. The evaluation will include an assessment of how much parental involvement is increasing and what barriers to parental participation still need to be overcome. The school district will revise its Parental Involvement Policy on the basis of this annual review.

This commitment to family involvement has been approved by the Calhoun County Board of Education. The policy will be coordinated by Title I supervisory staff and teachers throughout the district and promoted by building principals and other school staff.