

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



## Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan *Emanuel County* *School Year 2025-2026* *Revision Date 05/21/2025*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Emanuel County Schools 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 Emanuel County Schools 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 students residing in a residential facility within the Emanuel County School's attendance zone, 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 Emanuel County School District 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:

The Title I Parent/Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan are reviewed and/or revised annually at the Title I Parent Input Meeting. All parents in the system are invited to the in-person meeting during the Spring of each year. The district uses survey results from previous year to determine effectiveness and make changes to plans. Drafts of the Parent Involvement Plan and the CLIP are presented for parental review at least two separate times in order to gather parental input. The comments and suggestions of parents are considered before the final draft of the plan is completed. Agendas, sign-in sheets, and parental input is maintained by the Title I office.

#### **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Emanuel County School District 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 Title I Director and Parent Involvement Coordinator assist and provide coordination of support to each school throughout the year. The Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator assists parents in improving their child's achievement by promoting the Parent Resource Center that houses materials for parents to check-out throughout the year. A secondary Parent Resource Center has been established a Twin City Elementary for parents to more easily be able to check out technology resources for their student.

Schools in the district further provide learning opportunities for parents that promote literacy, parental development, use of technology, effective communication with educators, decision-making skills – related to the education of their children, and methods for monitoring their children’s progress. This ensures the effective planning and implementation of parent involvement activities.

The School-Parent-Student Compacts and The Parent and Family Engagement Plan is explained, discussed, and signed with parents and students at the beginning of the school year or during the Title I Orientation Meeting, and is discussed at the district Parent Advisory Council meeting. Parents receive copies. New registrants discuss and sign the School-Parent-Student Compact and are given a copy, along with other required Title I documents at registration. Parents and/or teachers may elect to review and/or revise an individual student’s School-Parent-Student Compact to accommodate that student’s individual needs. Each school annually revises the School-Parent-Student Compact with input from parents.

The revised compact, family engagement plan, and school plan for each school is provided to staff before finalization in order to get feedback as well as make staff aware of their role in the family engagement process. The district curriculum department coordinates with school staff to determine needs for effective parent and family engagement. Parent involvement set-aside funds are used to support school initiatives as well as fund the salary for the manager of the Parent Resource Room. Curriculum staff are available to provide training or presentations on topics schools determine are important to the parents and families in their school. All staff are required to view the Parent Engagement Modules on the Georgia Department of Education website. The Federal Programs Director will provide any necessary follow-up after coordinating with building administrators. Federal

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Emanuel County School District 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.

The Title I Parent Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), is reviewed and/or revised annually. A district-wide survey is administered annually. Parents are given at least two opportunities to participate in the survey through email contacts and district website.. Parent meetings are held at various sites/times to maximize parent participation. Parents are given the opportunity to provide input. All parents’ comments, suggestions, and/or written feedback are collected and maintained in the Title I Office. Parent input, along with survey results from local schools, are used to determine the effectiveness of the program; to identify barriers to parent participation; and to increase opportunities for parent participation. In addition to the annual survey, small surveys are taken at every Title I parent meeting and /or workshop. Results are used to make revisions and/or to plan future workshops.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The Emanuel County School District 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 Title I Parent Involvement Program allocates funds for parent involvement based on the guidelines as stipulated by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).- not less than one percent (1%), of the LEA Title I allocation for parent involvement. Federal budgets, including Title I, are available to parents upon request.

The Title I Parent Involvement Advisory Committee represents all Title I parents in matters concerning the LEA Title I Program.<sup>1</sup> The committee includes parents from each school, Instructional Coordinators, Title I and other district personnel, community members, school administration, and staff. The Title I Parent Advisory Committee will provide input regarding the LEA Title I Parent Involvement Policy, Title I Parent Involvement Activities, and the expending of the Title I allocation for Title I Parental Involvement Activities. All parents are invited to attend the Title I Parent Involvement Advisory Committee meetings.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The Emanuel County School District 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: Special Education, Early Intervention Program (EIP), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Pre-K, Head Start, Early Head Start and other programs as appropriate that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Continuously communicating with parents via multiple media, including:

- ◆ Local school websites and teacher websites
- ◆ Local media and community/business partners
- ◆ Parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, Parent Resource Center
- ◆ Newsletters, emails, signs, posters, and text messaging
- ◆ Telephone
- ◆ Social Media (Facebook, Twitter, App., etc.)
- ◆ Kinvo Messaging System
- ◆ School Pointe

All communications are in an easy-to-understand language. Translations for other languages may be provided to the extent practicable.

The Emanuel County School District will coordinate with Pre-K, Headstart, and all transition grade levels to ensure that parents and other family stakeholders are involved in the process of successful transitioning as well as making sure they are offered opportunities to become familiar with the new school and staff. These may include but are not limited to school tours, night meetings, individual meetings.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The Emanuel County School District 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

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<sup>1</sup> ESEA

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

Parents are supported in meeting their basic obligation as their child's first teacher. This is accomplished in part through a Parent Resource Center facilitated by the Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator, a certified teacher. The coordinator assists parents in improving their child's achievement by providing materials and training throughout the year. A Parent Resource Center houses materials for parents to check-out. The Center further provides learning opportunities for parents that promote literacy, parental development, use of technology, effective communication with educators, decision-making skills – related to the education of their children, and methods for monitoring their children's progress. Meetings/trainings are provided to assist parents in understanding of the National/state/district education goals, content standards, and curriculum, Educational rights/responsibilities under the ESEA and Title I, Part A, School district and state assessments, and Reading, writing, and math skills and strategies. Parents are also provided with additional learning opportunities that promote oral and written English literacy, goal setting/tracking goal progress, and methods for monitoring their children's progress.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The Emanuel County School District 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:

Each school provides its faculty and staff members with training to assist them in working with parents as equal partners in the educational process and to increase effective communication between the home/school. Parents' input should be considered in planning such training. All staff will complete all modules created by the Georgia Department of Education of Parent Engagement.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

- 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 parental involvement activities, including child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- 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
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement

Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs

Emanuel County Schools strive to include all parents in activities, and to the extent practicable, accommodate parents with disabilities, language barriers, and other special needs. Parent meetings/trainings are held at various times to meet the needs of all parents.

Additional opportunities for parents to be involved include:

- ◆ volunteering in the school and/or classroom; peer mentoring
- ◆ school leadership teams such as: PTO, School Councils, and School Leadership Teams