Bernd Elementary Leadership Academy
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2026-2027
Revision Date: May 26, 2026

What is Title I?

As part of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Title I, Part A, Bernd Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards. Title I supports these efforts by reinforcing and enhancing teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental and family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents and family members a written School Parental and Family Involvement Plan, School-Parent Compact, and School Improvement Plan. All Title I parents are also involved in providing input on how Title I funds for parental involvement are spent by providing feedback on the Title I Parent Survey.

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District Goals

- All students will reach high standards with a minimum attaining the following proficiency:
  - Increase the percent of students achieving a Lexile measure at the targeted grade levels (3rd, 5th, 8th, HS American Lit) to 55% as measured by the Georgia Milestones Assessment scores.
  - Decrease the percentage of students absent for 6 or more days from 48.4% to 30%.

How is This Plan Developed?

Parents and family members will be invited to several meetings, focus groups, and the annual School Improvement Forum in February to review and revise this plan, the School-wide Improvement Plan, School Compact, and parental involvement budget. These meetings are scheduled at convenient times. Additionally, parent and family member input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online comment card. Parent and family member feedback received will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey to ask parent and family members for their suggestions on the policy and use of funds for parent and family involvement.

The School-Parent Compact

The school-parent compact will be developed through collaboration with parents, students, teachers, and administrators. The purpose of the compact is to show how all involved will work together to ensure that all students reach grade level proficiency targets. The compact will be reviewed annually and updated based on feedback from students, teachers, and parents. The review will take place at our Title I Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forums held in the spring. A copy of the compact is shared at the beginning of the next school year.

School Goals

After completing a comprehensive needs assessment (reviewing STAR 360, Progress Assessment, and Milestones data), it was determined the following goals should be set:

Reading

By the end of the 2026-2027 school year, reading comprehension data will continue to increase so that a minimum of 80% of students at each grade-level will perform at the 40th percentile or higher on the STAR READING / STAR EARLY LITERACY assessment.

K-1: Phonics and Phonological Awareness
2-5: Reading Comprehension

Math

By the end of the 2026-2027 school year, math data will continue to increase so that a minimum of 80% of students at each grade-level will perform at the 40th percentile or higher on the STAR Math assessment.

K-1: Computation (Addition and Subtraction)
2-5: Computation and Number Sense (Addition, Subtraction, Addition, Multiplication, Division)

Who is This Plan For?

Bernd is a school-wide Title I, Part A program, and all families are encouraged to participate in multiple opportunities presented in this plan. Bernd will also offer opportunities for the full participation for families with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

What is This Plan?

This plan explains how Bernd provides various opportunities for involvement of parent and family members. At Bernd, we value parent and family member input and involvement. By working together, the common goal of student academic success will be accomplished. Parents and family members are encouraged to assist with the planning of activities that promote student success.

Where & When is This Plan Available?

The Bernd Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Plan is posted on the school website (https://bernd.bcsdk12.net/). The plan will also be available for further distribution at parent events and workshops throughout the year, if needed.

All volunteers are welcome at Bernd. To volunteer, you must complete a volunteer form each school year. Contact the school's secretary for more information.

Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2026-2027

The following events will be offered to parents to strengthen parental involvement. Support by the school, parents, and community partners will encourage student success when all are actively engaged in the education of our students.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Research shows parent involvement is critical to student success and student achievement. Bernd promotes, supports, and includes parents and families as an integral component of a successful educational foundation and to strengthen the school by supporting the achievement of school goals.

- We will ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is timely and published in both English and Spanish, as needed. Interpreter services will be available at the request of the parent.
- We will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis about school meetings and events including monthly newsletters, website announcements, Facebook postings, flyers, Remind, and phone calls, as appropriate. At Bernd, we provide at least 3 different methods of notifying our families of upcoming district and school activities. Our school website, Remind and Facebook page have the most up-to-date information.
- Bernd will conduct professional learning on parent involvement practices and effective strategies for staff in working with parents and families as equal partners. In-service training and ongoing communication tips are implemented throughout the school year. Parents are encouraged to help develop our professional development materials for our faculty and staff.
- Bernd will also provide additional parent involvement activities to support the full participation of parents in their child's education. It is our goal to provide necessary materials and training for parents so they may successfully work with their children to improve achievement.
- Bernd will partner with federal, state, and local programs including public pre-schools to encourage and support the full participation of parents and family members in their child's education.
- Bernd is committed to listening and responding to parents' requests for additional support for parental involvement activities. You are encouraged to submit parent feedback about this plan, both positive and negative, to the local Title I office.

Yearly Transition Meetings

Smooth Move

- **March 2027 (9:00-11:00)** - 5th grade students visit Appling Middle School to receive information concerning the transition to middle school.
- **May 2027 (9:00)** – Appling Middle School Principal will visit Bernd to provide parents with information regarding the transition to middle school.

Kindergarten Signing Day

- **April 19, 2027 (9:00 AM & 5:00 PM)** – We invite all upcoming Kindergarten families to learn about expectations and the transition into the kindergarten setting.

- **Open House/Family Engagement Meeting—July 30, 2026 (3:30-6:00)** Parents come and can hear about family engagement opportunities and are able to visit their child's classroom.
- **Annual Title I Meeting (RaiderFest 2026) —TBA (10:00-1:00)** Parents and students are invited out to obtain information regarding the School-Wide Improvement Plan, the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the School-Parent Compact, and Title I program, all of which encourage parents to be involved in order to help their child be successful. School and community information will also be available immediately after the meeting.
- **LEGO! Building and Connecting Together —September 21, 2026 (5:00-6:00)** Join us to assist in formulating our staff professional development session to help build ties between families and the school and set the expectations for the year. Also, see how technology works as a communication tool and can help you monitor student progress. Learn about school goals, classroom goals, student goals, and how it all aligns. Determine your part.
- **Student-Led Conferences—September 2026; November 2026; February 2027** Join us as we discuss where students should be at this point in the year. Then, conferences will allow students to share with parents, individual goals and progress toward those goals using Student Leadership Data Notebooks.
- **November 2026- National Family Engagement Month**
- **Holiday Lights & Learning Delight! —December 14, 2026 (5:00-6:00)** Join us to experience Reading and Math in a festive way. Make it a night on the town by coming in your fashionably festive attire and be part of our fashion show.
- **Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forums—February 25, 2027 (8:00 a.m. & 5:00 p.m.)** Parents will be given an opportunity to provide input on Title I documents and enjoy our Black History Program immediately afterwards.
- **Leadership Day—Fall 2026 (9:00a.m.-11:00 a.m.)** Join our students as they showcase their leadership skills in various ways; students will share their leadership notebooks as a tool for setting goals and monitoring action steps in reaching those goals.
- **Georgia Milestones Assessment Forum—March 15, 2027 (9:00 & 5:00)** Join us as we share information that will help you help your child achieve academic success through test taking strategies and information about the Georgia Milestones Assessment.
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences (Throughout the year, as needed)** Join your child's teacher to dialogue about how your child is doing in school. It's the time to get a report on your child's progress. Parent-Teacher Conferences are available upon request and scheduled as needed. An essential part of each communication will be the School-Parent Compact.

**All dates are tentative and subject to change; official notices will be sent home to remind parents of important opportunities.