WALTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
District Parent & Family Engagement Plan

School Year 2026-27
Revised May 26, 2026

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Walton County School District 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 activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Walton County School District 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 116(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 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 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 that:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- 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
- Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Walton County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its district plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

A. Stakeholders including all parents will be given an opportunity to provide input by completing the Title I District Annual Survey. Results are shared with Principals and during development of the District and School Improvement Plans.
B. Communicate with parents via the district and Title I Schools' websites, distribute invitation flyers, Parental Engagement Newsletters, post meeting announcements in the local newspaper, Title I Parental Engagement Meetings, and display posters at all Title I schools and the District office.
C. Conduct input meetings at the district and school levels for stakeholders to review and provide suggestions about all documents.
D. Provide interpreters for parents and family members as needed.
E. Share revised draft versions of documents prior to finalization.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Walton County School District** will provide the following necessary 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:

A. Central Office Support for Parental Engagement - Title I Director
B. Parent Resource Centers in Title I Schools that support Parental/Family Engagement as funded by Schools
C. Title I Technical Support, Title I Orientation, Title I Regional Meetings, and Title I Work sessions

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Walton 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 plan in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. This 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 plan to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and to revise, if necessary its parent and family engagement policies through the following methods:

A. The district will continually obtain feedback from parents via the district wide survey on the district and local schools' websites, paper copies, local media, and Title I Activity Evaluations.
B. Collaboration with the Special Education Department, Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Special Education Parent Mentor, and District Homeless Liaison.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Walton 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. Stakeholders including all parents will be given an opportunity to provide input into the Title I budget by completing the Title I District Annual Survey. The district and schools will conduct input meetings for stakeholders to review and provide suggestions for expenditure of Title I funds. Interpreters will be provided for parents and family members as needed.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Walton County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, including Pre-K (Bright from the Start), Homeless, English Learners, Immigrant, Neglected, and Delinquent, and other district programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

A. Collaborating with The Partnership for Families and Youth, Head Start, Preschool Exceptional Education Program (PEEP), State operated Pre-School Programs, Migrant Educational Program Consortium with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC), and transition planning with all Title I Schools at each level.
B. Hosting parent meetings at Title I schools regarding coordination of services and transition from one level to another.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Walton County School District** 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 and using technology (including information about the harm of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- Challenging state academic standards
- State and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments
- Requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

Activities to support building capacity of parents may include sessions regarding:

- Math Resources
- Promoting good study habits
- How to assist your child with homework
- Educational websites and apps for families
- Understanding the College and Career Readiness Index (CCRPI)
- Understanding the HOPE scholarship

BUILDING CAPACITY OF STAFF

The **Walton County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional personnel, principals, assistant principals, 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 providing online professional learning for all Title I Schools and by sharing strategies for engaging parents and families at faculty meetings and on professional learning days.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Walton County School District may also engage in any or all of the following, as suggested by parents and families, to build parents' capacity for involvement in their child's school and for supporting their child's academic achievement:

A. Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
B. Paying reasonable and necessary costs associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
C. Training parents to help with involving other parents
D. Providing specific trainings at schools to help students
E. Arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home meetings to enable greater participation of families

ADOPTION

This districtwide Parent & Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with input from parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the feedback/input from Title I Surveys and Stakeholder Feedback groups in Spring of 2026.

This plan was adopted by the **Walton County School District** on **05/26/26** and will be in effect for 2026-27 school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of children attending participating Title I, Part A schools on or before October 31, 2026.