2026/2027

Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Revised 05/22/2026

Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) believes that family engagement involves the participation of parents and family members in regular, meaningful, two-way communication about students' academic learning and other school activities. Our family engagement program and activities are designed to ensure that:

- Learning Coaches play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Learning Coaches are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- Learning Coaches feel supported and empowered by staff.
- Learning Coaches are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriately, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
- Learning Coaches feel connected to other GCA families and the GCA community.

The district will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, school leaders, and staff, with the assistance of parents, on the value and utility of the contribution of parents, and on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build relationships between parents and the school.

GCA'S PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

What is it?

GCA's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, our Plan for Shared Student Achievement, describes how GCA will provide opportunities to improve family engagement and support student learning. GCA values the contributions and involvement of parents, Learning Coaches, and family members in establishing an equal partnership toward the common goal of improving student achievement. This policy describes the different ways GCA will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events that promote student learning at school and beyond the virtual classroom. GCA provides reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Title I Part A Section 1116.

How is it revised?

GCA invited all parents to attend our Title I Family Engagement End-of-Year Review & Input Meeting last spring to review and provide input on our Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compacts, and family engagement budget. We also distributed our annual survey online to all families to gather parents' suggestions on the policy, School-Parent Compacts, and the use of funds for family engagement. Additionally,

parent feedback and comments regarding this policy are welcome throughout the school year via focus groups, surveys, email, online meetings, and phone calls. The policy is posted on our website for families to view and submit feedback throughout the year. The Family School Partnership Coordinators review feedback annually to provide revisions for the Family Engagement Policy. If you would like to provide feedback, please email Michelle Gilyard, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at mgilyard@georgiacyber.org. All parent feedback received during the current school year will be used to revise the plan for the following school year.

Where is it Available?

At the beginning of the year, the policy is emailed to all families by the Family School Partnership Coordinators. The policy is also provided in our Annual Title Meeting and is available on our website: Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

TITLE I

What is Title I?

GCA is identified as a Title I district and school under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts aligned with challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Reservation of Title I Funds

GCA will reserve 1% of the total Title I funds to carry out parent and family engagement requirements. Furthermore, at least 90% of the 1% will be reserved to support family engagement programs and activities. Family engagement programs and activities are designed to ensure that parents have opportunities and experiences that enable them to promote high student academic achievement and to be involved in an effective partnership with the school.

State and Federal Collaborations

GCA coordinates and integrates parent and family engagement strategies with the Georgia Department of Education through ongoing collaborations and continuing education. GCA is proud to have contributed to the Georgia Department of Education by providing technical assistance to the 2017-2019 Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Cohort.

Strengthening Our School

Ongoing staff professional development is provided district-wide by the Family School Partnership Coordinators to strengthen our staff's family engagement practices. Some of the topics that will be covered are best practices in the value and utility of contributions of parents; how to effectively reach out to, communicate with,

and work with parents as equal partners; how we implement and coordinate parent programs; how to provide information in a language that parents can understand; and how to build ties between parents and the school. Parents are asked to participate and provide feedback on staff family engagement professional development.

School-Parent Compact

GCA staff and parents/Learning Coaches work collaboratively to develop the School-Parent Compacts as part of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. This compact outlines how parents/Learning Coaches, the school, staff, and students share responsibility for improving student academic achievement, and how the school and parents/Learning Coaches will build a partnership to help students meet the state's high standards. Copies of the School-Parent Compacts are located on our website: https://www.georgiacyber.org/parents/title-i-program

Information in an Understandable Language

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Family School Partnership Coordinators will communicate and collaborate with the Federal Program Director/Title III, Transitional Student Liaisons, and Student Support Services Team to ensure opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities are provided information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Annual Evaluation

The GCA Annual Parent Survey is conducted each spring to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and programming in improving our school's academic quality. The survey is also used to identify barriers to greater parental participation and to determine parents' needs for how they can further assist their students' learning. Results from this survey are documented and used to plan future parent and family engagement programming.

PARENT ENGAGEMENT AND INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

GCA welcomes our parents and Learning Coaches to become active participants through volunteering and participating in parent leadership opportunities at our school. Please consider partnering with us to ensure the academic success of all students and the engagement of all families at GCA.

The purpose of the Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) Parent Advisory Council is to serve as positive ambassadors and provide meaningful input that impacts our students and their families. The primary focus of the advisory members is to increase parent and family engagement to ensure student academic success. The goal of the GCA

Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is to ensure the effective involvement of parents, build partnerships with the GCA community, and support our Family-Friendly School environment.
If you have questions or would like to apply for next school year, please contact Veronica Okpani, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at vokpani@georgiacyber.org.

The Georgia Cyber Academy (GCA) Student Advisory Council (SAC) provides feedback on our school from the students' perspective. The council comprises students who represent GCA's Elementary, Middle, and Secondary Grade Bands. The purpose of GCA SAC is to provide feedback on the social, emotional, and academic needs of our students and to identify student concerns to share with school leadership. If you have questions or would like to apply for next school year, please contact Michelle Gilyard, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at mgilyard@georgiacyber.org.

Georgia Cyber Academy Parent-Teacher-Student Organization (GCA PTSO) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to support and enhance the educational experience for the children attending GCA. The PTSO provides a channel for communication, offers volunteer opportunities, and funds school-related programs and projects. To volunteer for the 2026-2027 school year, complete this Volunteer Survey. More information about GCA PTSO and how you can be involved is located on the PTSO website at www.gcaptso.org. If you have questions, please email Michelle Gilyard, Family School Partnerships Coordinator at mgilyard@georgiacyber.org.

FAMILY SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES

School Website
Our school website has a wealth of information, including faculty directory, school policies, school news, academic and events calendars, department information, Georgia Milestones resources, new family resources, and much more. Visit the GCA website at https://www.georgiacyber.org/.

GCA Calendar
The GCA Calendar contains details about in-person/virtual events and online support sessions. Our school, teachers, and parent leaders across the state plan in-person events to provide educational and social opportunities for other GCA families. Online support sessions cover a variety of topics. View the GCA Calendar at https://www.georgiacyber.org/calendars/all-calendars for details.

Family Engagement Liaisons
The role of the GCA Family Engagement Liaison (FEL) is to provide holistic support to each student and their family throughout each school year. The purpose is to guarantee that all GCA families have adequate support and individual communication

to foster family-school partnerships that lead to increased student achievement. The Family Engagement Liaison is a gateway to many other resources and departmental support.

MEANINGFUL INPUT OPPORTUNITIES

Input and suggestions from parents, Learning Coaches, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement process. GCA will host the following online meetings and provide recordings to share information and provide a platform for input into our district and school planning.

CLIP (District Improvement Plan) Family & Stakeholder Input Meeting - February 05, 2027 (Recording)
Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are essential components of the district/school improvement plan developed each year. Georgia Cyber Academy invites our families and stakeholders to participate in the development of a Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Parents, family, community partners, and staff will be invited to volunteer for school improvement committees at the meeting; an invitation will also be sent via email. *If you would like to provide feedback at any time on our District Improvement Plans, please email Julie Ferrer at jferrer@georgiacyber.org.*

Title, I End of Year Review & Input Meeting - April 13, 2027
We will review our Title I Family Engagement Program and evaluate its effectiveness for the 2026-2027 School Year. We will provide an opportunity to give feedback on how we can improve our documents and programming for the 2027-2028 School Year. Those items include: The District-Wide/School-Wide Plan, Title I Funding (including 1% set-aside for parent and family engagement activities), Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compacts, and Family Engagement Staff and Parent Trainings. *If you would like to provide feedback at any time on our Title I Family Engagement Program, please email Michelle Gilyard at mgilyard@georgiacyber.org.*

PARENT MEETINGS

GCA will host the following online meetings to build the capacity of our parents and families with the goal of fostering family-friendly partnerships and improving student academic achievement.

Advanced Placement Information Session -August 10, 2026
An informational session regarding AP course expectations and details on how to sign up for AP exams.

Special Education Parent Information Session - August 13, 2026
Join our Special Education Parent Orientation to learn how we serve you and your students at Georgia Cyber Academy and meet our team.

District Town Hall - August 18, 2026
Welcome to the 2026/2027 school year with updates from district leaders and an open forum to ask questions and discuss concerns.

Gifted Program Information Session -August 20, 2026
At this information session, the Gifted Program department will discuss the difference between advanced and gifted, eligibility and gifted testing, and placement for advanced and gifted classes. Followed by a Question-and-Answer session.

Grade Band Curriculum Nights - Grades K-2 - 08/26/2026, Grades 3-5 - 08/26/2026, Grades 6-8 - 08/27/2026, Grades 9-12 - 08/27/2026 - 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM
During each grade band's Curriculum Night session, the Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment Director, along with the grade band Principals and staff, will explain standards, assessments, monitoring progress, and working with educators.

English Literacy - August 28, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - September 04, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - September 09, 2026, at 3:00 PM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

District Curriculum Nights - September 10, 2026
Join your Curriculum & Instructional Programs Department from 6:00 - 7:30 PM. The team will provide information on the GCA Curriculum for the 2025-2026 school year in all K-12 classrooms at Georgia Cyber Academy.

Copyright Piracy & Literacy Training - September 11, 2026

During this session, the Family-School Partnership Coordinators will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and technology use, as well as education on the harms of copyright piracy, email/internet safety, and plagiarism/honor code.

Champion Tour - September 15, 2026

During the Champion Tour, we will discuss Parent Leadership opportunities and Attendance Awareness with our Attendance Department guest speaker. In addition, our Counseling department will provide information on our Dual Enrollment and Work-Based Learning programs. We will then transition into grade bands (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) and breakout rooms, where educators will review how you can support your student in Math. Breakout rooms for a Special Education Information Session will also be available.

Dyslexia - September 17, 2026, at 6:00 PM

In this informational session, we'll review current Georgia legislation around early literacy and Dyslexia. We will review GCA's Dyslexia screening and intervention processes and provide guidance on supporting your early readers at home. This session is geared toward families with students in kindergarten through third grade. Join us!

English Literacy - September 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM

Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Spanish Champion Tour - September 18, 2026 (Recording)

Spanish-language delivery on 09/15/2026 Champion Tour breakout room content will be provided in a translatable recording.

English Learner Family Night - September 22, 2026

In this meeting, we will discuss the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at GCA and show parents of ESOL students how they can be involved in the education of their children as well as become active participants in assisting their children to attain English proficiency, achieve at high levels within a well-rounded education, and meet the challenging academic standards expected of all students. An interpreter will be in the session, and slides will be delivered in both English and Spanish.

Annual Title I Meeting - October 6, 2026

The purpose of this meeting is to provide our Parents, Learning Coaches, and Stakeholders with information about our Title I Program and our parents' right to be involved in their child's education. We will review items and documents, including the District-Wide/School-Wide Plan, Title I Funding (including the 1% set-aside for parent and family engagement activities), Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, and Family Engagement Staff and Parent Trainings.

English Literacy - October 9, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - October 14, 2026, at 3:00 PM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Champion Tour - October 15, 2026
During the Champion tour, we will discuss Family Engagement Month. We will also share fundraising opportunities from home, as well as guidance on working with educators to improve student achievement. We will then transition to grade-band breakout rooms (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12), where educators will review how you can support your student in Reading and English Language Arts. An Instructional Support Services Representative will be in each grade band breakout room. There will also be a Special Education information breakout room.

SPANISH Champion Tour - October 17, 2026
Spanish-language delivery of the 10/15/2026 parent meeting breakout room content will be provided in a translatable recording.

Senate Bill 60 Parent Information Session - October 23, 2026 (Recording)
Senate Bill 60 Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention Strategies and GCA health screening parent information session.

English Literacy - October 23, 2026, at 3:00 PM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Champion Tour - November 5, 2026

During the Champion Tour, we will share strategies to engage and motivate your students. A Learning Coach guest speaker will provide tips and best practices on motivating and keeping your student engaged. In addition, our Counseling department will provide information on Work-Based Learning programs. We will then transition to grade-band (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12) breakout rooms, where educators will review how to read MAP scores and encourage student MAP growth, IAs, and Milestones. Special Education will also have a breakout room.

English Literacy - November 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

FSPC Kitchen - November 17, 2026

English Literacy - November 18, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

First Semester Milestone Smore - November 19, 2026

English Literacy - December 02, 2026, at 3:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Financial Literacy Nights - December 03, 2026, at 6:45 PM
Understanding Credit - Topics to include when kids should start building credit, how to help build good credit habits, how to be smart with money, and how to protect your child's credit.

Financial Literacy Nights - December 10, 2026, at 6:45 PM
Paying Bills & Budgeting/ Saving & Investing - Topics to include investment accounts for kids, how to help your child earn income, and how to responsibly pay our bills.

English Literacy - December 11, 2026, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - December 16, 2026, at 3:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Financial Literacy Nights - December 17, 2026, at 6:46 PM
Banking & Protecting Your Identity - Topics to include the importance of saving money, opening a bank account, saving incentives, and how to teach your children about internet safety.

2nd Semester Advanced Placement Info Session -January 07, 2027
An informational session regarding AP course expectations and details on how to sign up for AP exams.

English Learner Literacy Support and Access Testing - January 11, 2027
During this meeting, we provide tips for improving literacy at home and for reinforcing English language development. We also review what ACCESS is, the scheduled dates, and provide links to the DRC practice site.

District Town Hall - January 12, 2027
District school leaders will provide updates and share important news for the New Year. An open forum to ask questions and discuss concerns will be provided at the end of the meeting.

English Literacy - January 13, 2027, at 3:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Special Education Information Session - January 19, 2027
Our Special Education information session explains how we serve students and parents at Georgia Cyber Academy.

Special Education Eligibility Parent Information Session - January 21, 2027
Join our Special Education Parent Orientation to learn how we serve you and your students at Georgia Cyber Academy and meet our team.

English Literacy - January 22, 2027, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Champion Tour - January 26, 2027
During the Champion Tour, we will discuss Parent Leadership Month and Growth Mindsets for Parents and Students in the Parent Meeting. In addition, our Counseling department will provide information on our Dual Enrollment and Work-Based Learning programs. We will then transition to grade-band breakout rooms (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12), where educators will review how you can support your student in Science and Social Studies. There will also be a Special Education Information Session breakout room.

English Literacy - January 27, 2027, at 3:00
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

AP Open House - January 28, 2027
Have you thought about AP classes but never really done any research? Are you interested in the course titles, but don't know what they are about? Well, now is the time to find out. Please join us for an AP Open House. Students will be able to hear from and learn about the course expectations.

SPANISH Champion Tour - January 29, 2027 (Recording)
Spanish-language delivery of 01/26/2027 Champion Tour breakout room content will be provided in a translatable recording.

AP Open House - February 2, 2027
Have you thought about AP classes but never really done any research? Are you interested in the course titles, but don't know what they are about? Well, now is the time to find out. Please join us for an AP Open House. Students will be able to hear from AP teachers about next year's courses and learn the course expectations.

English Literacy - February 3, 2027, at 3:00
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Gifted Testing Orientation - February 18, 2027
This is a targeted session; qualified testers will be notified.

English Literacy - February 26, 2027, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - March 12, 2027, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - March 17, 2027, at 3:00 PM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy - March 26, 2027, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

Champion Tour - March 30, 2027
During the Champion Tour, we will discuss Georgia Milestone Assessments and how your family can prepare for state-mandated testing. We will then transition to grade-band breakout rooms (K-2, 3-5, 6-8, 9-12), where educators will review how you can help your student prepare academically for Milestone Assessments and discuss test-taking strategies. There will also be a Special Education breakout room.

SPANISH Champion Tour - April 2, 2027 (Recording)
Spanish-language delivery of the 03/30/2027 Champion Tour breakout room content will be provided in a translatable recording.

Senate Bill 60 Parent Information Session - April 16, 2027 (Recording)
Senate Bill 60 Sudden Cardiac Death Prevention Strategies and GCA health screening parent information session.

English Literacy April 16, 2027, at 10:00 AM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

English Literacy April 21, 2027, at 3:00 PM
Our English Literacy classes are designed for adults, parents, and Learning Coaches who want to learn English as a second language. Instruction will focus on boosting English skills with a review of grammar, vocabulary, and writing, covering all key areas: reading, writing, listening, and speaking.

District Town Hall - April 27, 2027

We will celebrate our school year's accomplishments. District school leaders will share end-of-year updates and important information for the next school year. An open forum to ask questions and discuss concerns will be provided at the end of the meeting.

Technology Training and Resources

The Family School Partnership Coordinators send monthly reminders for families to utilize the GCA Student and Family Help Center for support with Student Technology, Accounts, and Software. Link to page https://support.georgiacyber.org/hc/en-us. Resources to empower the whole child are available on our Parent Empowerment page.