

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

WHAT IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, to ensure:

- (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.
- (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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

ABOUT THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Cobb County School District (CCSD) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe CCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The CCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

During the Annual Federal Programs Stakeholder meeting in March 2024, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2024-2025 school year. The district sent an email and text message to all stakeholders informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and provided feedback on the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by April 2024 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district will distribute this policy by posting it on district website and school websites in a format and language accessible to parents.

STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS

In the fall, the Title I Program Supervisor will provide technical assistance and support to schools with a Title I program to ensure local staff family engagement requirements are being satisfied and those family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, these schools will receive notifications and resources from the district's Title I Program Supervisor to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

CCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY25 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, CCSD will equally distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all schools with Title I programs to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each school with a Title I program in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.





OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to participate in opportunities described in this section. Their ideas and suggestions help the district, schools, and students reach their student academic achievement goals.

Cobb County School District Annual Survey – October 2024

Federal Programs Stakeholder Meeting (District Opportunity) ~ March 20, 2025

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Cobb County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2025 - 2026 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent utilizing the district communication system, district websites, and other media outlets.

Stakeholders unable to attend the meeting may still provide feedback. A recording of the meeting and survey link will be posted on the Title I webpage [Title I \(cobbk12.org\)](https://cobbk12.org) a few days after the meeting date.

School Improvement Opportunities ~ August – October 2024 and March – April 2025

Each school with a Title I program will provide parents, families, teachers, and community stakeholders with multiple opportunities to have meaningful input into the development of family engagement activities/programs offered this year. Each occasion will gather input regarding strategies implemented in the schoolwide plan, school-family engagement policy, and family engagement budget. Schools may choose to host any combination of the following:

- **Focus Group:** small groups of parents and family members come together in a confidential setting for structured evaluation to gather data on parent and family engagement policy and effective programs.
- **Surveys:** which can be administrated in multiple ways, are the commonly used method for collecting stakeholder feedback in an anonymous format about parent and family engagement policy programs.
- **Open Discussion Forum:** large groups of parents and families who provide feedback on parent and family engagement policies and programs.

Each school will send invitations and announcements home utilizing the school communication system, notifying families of the method of input, the location/online platform application, date, and time as applicable to the process of gathering input. Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

BUILDING CAPACITY

The CCSD will build the schools' and families' capacity for strong family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. The goal of building the capacity of our families is to support a partnership among schools with a Title I program, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through various districtwide activities and programs.

Additionally, schools interested in implementing the following evidence-based family engagement model will receive training and support:

- **Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) are being implemented at Clarkdale and Hendricks Elementary Schools.**

APTT focuses on instructional goals matched to student needs with the support of teachers, families, and community partners.

OF PARENTS – The CCSD will work as a district and through its schools with Title I programs to assist families in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I programs. District Family Engagement Staff will support the implementation of evidence-based model approaches to connect student's academic achievement to parent and family engagement. The CCSD webpage provides access to resources for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes and family engagement events will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I district and school's website.

The CCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state-funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on the family engagement activities. Elementary schools host kindergarten articulation days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. Middle and high schools will host opportunities that support the transition of students from elementary to middle, middle to high and high to post-secondary education. The CCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

OF SCHOOL STAFF – To ensure that information related to the district, school, parent programs, and schoolwide activities are available to all parents, each school with a Title I program is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in the parents’ home language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize the school communication system, district and school websites, various media outlets, and other school message systems to post information for parents. School staff will participate in quarterly Building Staff Capacity Training focused on building powerful partnerships between the home and school.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Title I Supervisor will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Teaching & Learning and Teaching & Learning Support and Specialized Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

School Improvement Input Opportunities

August – October 2024 – Parent Survey

March – April 2025 – Spring Input Forum

District Annual Parent Survey

October 2024 - April 2025

Federal Programs Stakeholder Meeting

March 20, 2025



FOR SCHOOLS

Teacher Professional Learning on Parent & Family Engagement

July 1, 2024 - September 20, 2024

October 7, 2024 - December 6, 2024

January 2, 2025 - February 14, 2025

March 10, 2025 - April 25, 2025

Principal and Support Staff Training

Title I Program and Budget Meetings: August 2024 – September 2025

Title I School Support and Assistance: August 2024 – June 2025

Family Engagement Technical Assistance for Parent Liaisons

Summer Training – May 29, 2024

Monthly Webinar Meetings (1st Tuesday of every month during the school year)

Additional Family Engagement Support Meetings - September 12, 2024 & February 6, 2025

Bookkeeper Training

September 2024

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, the CCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I program through an annual parent survey, the School Improvement Forums, and the Evidence-based/Logic Model Methodology.

Beginning in April, each school with a Title I program will begin to compile and analyze feedback received throughout the year to evaluate program needs.

The CCSD will use the findings from these resources to design strategies to improve effective family engagement policies.

ADOPTION

The CCSD Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy was jointly reviewed and revised by parents of participating children on or before July 31, 2024 and will be in effect for the 2024-2025 academic school year. The school district will distribute the policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2024.

CONTACTS

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Thank you,



Cobb County School District
Federal Programs Director, Title I and Homeless Education Program