



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

2023-2024

WHAT IS FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Decades of research strongly suggest that families have a significant influence on their child's achievement in school and throughout life. Family engagement in Cobb means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. We believe...

- A) successful schools are a foundation of community stability, growth, and prosperity;
- B) family and community engagement is critical to student and district success;
- C) in a constant and purposeful focus on what is best for students;
- D) creativity and innovation are encouraged and embraced by all stakeholders; and
- E) in cultivating a positive environment where students are provided pathways for success

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Cobb County School District (CCSD) supports and solicits family engagement of children being served in activities funded by Title I. This is an essential component for increasing student achievement and ensuring continued success. In support of strengthening student academic achievement, CCSD has developed this engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for family and community engagement. The policy includes guided strategies and resources that strengthen school-parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This policy was developed jointly with the input of CCSD and Title I stakeholders. Parent comments and survey results can be located on the CCSD Title I Website at [Title I \(cobbk12.org\)](https://www.cobbk12.org) under the Teaching and Learning Department tab. All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year during input opportunities. Throughout the course of the year, parents work to share their ideas and provide suggestions to help the district, school, and students reach their academic achievement goals. All feedback received by May was included with the policy for this school year.

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STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS

In the fall, the Title I Supervisor will provide guidance and professional development to schools on effective family engagement activities, school family engagement plans, and school-family compact. The training will also include building parent capacity that will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The Georgia Department of Education Family-School Partnership Program provides ongoing technical assistance and webinars to ensure local school 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, Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district's Title I Supervisor to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

CCSD will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY24 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Furthermore, CCSD will equally distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents and family members 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 academic achievement goals.

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Federal Programs State of the District Opportunity

Survey October 2023 and CLIP Meeting March 28, 2024

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 2024-25 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent utilizing the district communication system, district websites, and other media outlets.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit [Title I \(cobbk12.org\)](https://cobbk12.org) to access meeting minutes. To provide submit feedback about our Title I programs please submit an email to: Titlefamilyengagement@cobbk12.org

School Improvement Opportunities

August – October 2023 and March – April 2024

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 administered in multiple ways, are the commonly used method for collecting stakeholder feedback in an anonymous format about parent and family engagement policy and 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.

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.

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BUILDING CAPACITY

The CCSD will build the schools' and families' capacity for strong family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. The goal of building the capacity of our families is to support a partnership among the Title I schools, 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, Hendricks, and Powder Springs 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 Title I schools 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 family and community 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.

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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 parents' native 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 the Building Staff Capacity Training. The training is held quarterly and will focus 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 proficient, 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 2023 – Parent Survey

March – April 2024 – Spring Input Forum

District Annual Parent Survey

October 2023 - May 2024

Federal Programs State of the District

March 28, 2024

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FOR SCHOOLS

Building Staff Capacity Training Date Ranges: Powerful Partnerships

July 1, 2023 - September 22, 2023

October 1, 2023 - December 8, 2023

January 2, 2024 - February 16, 2024

March 8, 2024 - April 29, 2024

Principal and Support Staff Training

Title I Program and Budget Meetings: August 2023 – September 2024

Title I School Support and Assistance: August 2023 – June 2024

Family Engagement Technical Assistance for Parent Liaisons

Summer Training –July 21, 2023

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

Additional Family Engagement Support Meetings

September 12, 2023

February 6, 2024

Bookkeeper Training

September 2023

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.

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ADOPTION

CCSD Title I Family and Community Engagement Policy was jointly reviewed and revised by parents of participating children on or before August 15, 2023, and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 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, 2023.

CONTACTS

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Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tiffany M. Honoré". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'T'.

Cobb County School District
Federal Programs Director

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