Dowell Elementary

Family-School Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success

2026–2027 School Year

Dr. Pamela Cain
Cobb County School District

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Dowell Elementary Academic Goals

Goal 1: By the Spring 2027 Beacon administration, the percentage of students in grades 1–2 scoring Prepared in Constructing Texts will increase from 25% to 35%, while the percentage scoring Support Needed will decrease from 37% to 28%, as measured by Beacon ELA domain data.

- By the Spring 2027 Beacon administration, the percentage of students in grades 3–5 scoring Prepared in the Listening subdomain of Interpreting Texts will increase from 17% to 27%, while the percentage scoring Support Needed will decrease from 30% to 22%, as measured by Beacon ELA domain data.

Goal 2: The K-2 BEACON math scale score in the numerical reasoning domain will increase from 482 on the 2026 spring Math BEACON assessment to 500 on the 2027 Math BEACON assessment.

-The percentage of students in grades 3-5 scoring level 3 or 4 will increase from 38% (173) to 42% (191) as measured by the spring 2027 EOG math assessment.

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School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Dowell Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Dowell Elementary values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Dowell Elementary will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

Jointly Developed

Dowell Elementary invites all parents to complete the Fall school improvement input survey/evaluation to provide suggestions on the school's Title I program. All parents are also invited to attend the Spring school improvement input meeting to revise this parental involvement policy, our school-parent compact, building staff capacity professional learning topics, and the parental involvement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. The plan is posted on our school Web site for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey that is posted online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of the 1% reservation of funds for parental involvement. Parents can also give feedback during any parent meetings and activities during the school year.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their parents and families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy. Dowell Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of Neglected and Delinquent proxy parents, parents and families with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

Every family will receive the plan during Parent-Teacher Conference week. It is also available on the school website and a copy is in the front office binder. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center. We will gladly mail the plan to you upon request.

What is Title I?

Dowell Elementary is identified as a school having a Schoolwide Title I program as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards which reinforce and enhance efforts 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 parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement policy.

2026-2027
Cobb County Schools
District Goals

- By SY27, increase growth by 2 percentage points, for students scoring at the proficient and distinguished levels, as evidenced by state assessments.

- By SY28, increase graduation rate from 87% to 88% as measured by GaDOE adjusted cohort graduation rate.

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Family-School Compacts

As part of this plan, Dowell Elementary and our families will develop a family-school compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the School Improvement forum. The family-school compacts are distributed during Parent-Teacher Conference week October 13-16, 2026. Copies are also available throughout the year with each child's teacher.

Let's Get Together!

Dowell Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) activities will be held at various times to provide opportunities for all families to participate. If you are unable to attend and would like meeting information, please contact Dowell.

Annual Title I Meeting – August 20, 2026, from 5:00-6:00pm
We invite you to an evening of learning about our Title I program, including the parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compacts, parents' rights under Title I, highlights of the school improvement plan and the 1% reservation of funds for family engagement. Additionally, you'll receive a description about our school's curriculum and the assessments used to monitor student progress.

Hispanic Heritage & Literacy Night (Title 1 Curriculum in Action) – September 17, 2026, from 5:00-6:45
Come dive into a fun night of literacy and learning as we explore and honor Hispanic culture with our school community.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 13-16, 2026.
Receive updates on your child's progress in class and on assessments during Conference Week. Parents may always request conferences with their child's teacher, as needed.

Fall School Improvement Input Survey- October 13-16, 2026
Dowell will send home the Title I Survey / Evaluation through CTLS Parent. Parents are asked to provide valuable feedback regarding the school, current and future family and community engagement activities and programs.

Family Math, Science & Data Night w/ Cosmic Bowling – January 14, 2027
Join us for a night of fun and learning! Engage in math and science activities with your child and view student science projects on display. We will also have free takeaways to help your child at home with math.

Spring School Improvement Input Forum- March 12, 2027: 8:15-9:15 am, Dowell Media Center
Parents and educators review and discuss Dowell's Title I program, future parent activities, school-family compact and policy, family engagement budget and staff trainings.

Incoming Kindergarten Parent Meeting- March 19, 2027
Rising Kindergarten families are introduced to expectations and learning opportunities offered in elementary school.

Rising 6th Grade Parent Meeting- April 16, 2027
Rising 6th grade families are introduced to expectations and learning opportunities offered in middle school.

Parent Resource Center (Front Office) Hours:

Visit the Parent Resource Center (PRC) to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore CTLS Learn, CTLS Parent and educational resources.

Parental Involvement

Dowell believes that parental involvement 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.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- That 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.

Parental Involvement Matters

Dowell is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or email us if you need assistance with childcare or transportation to participate in our programs.

Esther Islam
678-594-8059 or
esther.islam@cobbk12.org

One Team, One Goal, Student Success

Dowell Elementary will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen student academic performance and reach our school goals. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish, posted on the school website, and included in the weekly Friday message for all parents.
- ✓ Provide two trainings each semester for staff during their planning periods on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement.
- ✓ Partner with our feeder schools by conducting joint meetings and events for parents and sending school information about parent engagement activities to help prepare parents and their child for school transitions.
- ✓ Share information in English and Spanish on the school blog and in the school newsletter for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through CTLS Parent, school website, social media, campus signpost and flyers, etc.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parental involvement.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Use our Parent Facilitators and Education Partners to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parental involvement policy
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents at all events and offer a variety of surveys throughout the school year to respond to parents' input regarding parental involvement activities and requested meetings.

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Parental Involvement Standards

Dowell Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

Principal Advisory Council

The purpose of the Principal Advisory Council is to bring together parents, community members, and school staff to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other's concerns and share ideas for school improvement.

The Principal Advisory Council meets three times per school year. Along with the principal, council members include:
1. Two staff members (one being the current Teacher of the Year).
2. Two parents (one being the current PTSA president).
3. Two members of the community (one being a Partner in Education representative).
4. High Schools *only* should include the president of the student government association or the senior class president.

If you would like to share your ideas and perspective with the Principal Advisory Council please contact Dr. Pam Cain, school principal, pamela.cain@cobbk12.org.

Parent Involvement Opportunities

☐ I am interested in participating on the Principal Advisory Council
☐ I am interested in participating in the Dowell Foundation committee.
☐ I am interested in other volunteer opportunities, please contact me as needed.

Name: _____

Child's Name and Grade: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

To return this form via email to esther.islam@cobbk12.org
or deliver form to the school's Main Office.

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name (Optional): _____

Phone Number (Optional): _____

Email Address (Optional): _____

Suggestions, Compliments, Concerns:

_____

_____

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