

Russell Elementary School

Family-School Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success

2026–2027 School Year

*Dr. Marilyn Thomas, Principal
Cobb County School District*

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Russell Elementary School Academic Goals

Goal 1: The percentage of kindergarten students scoring at or above grade level will increase from 56% (45 students) to 59% (47 students) as measured by the 2026-27 AMIRA. The percentage of 1st and 2nd grade students scoring at the prepared level will increase from 31% (55 students) to 34% (61 students) as measured by the 2026-27 ELA Beacon. The percentage of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students scoring levels 3 and 4 will increase from 27% (72 students) to 29% (76 students) as measured by the 2026-27 ELA Georgia Milestones.

Goal 2: The percentage of 1st and 2nd grade students scoring prepared will increase from 28% (50 students) to 31% (56 students) as measured by the 2026-27 Math Beacon. The percentage of 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students scoring levels 3 and 4 will increase from 31% (81 students) to 34% (89 students) as measured by the 2026-27 Math Georgia Milestone.

Goal 3: The percentage of 5th-grade students scoring Levels 3 or 4 will increase from 27% (24 students) to 30% (27 students) as measured by the 2026-27 Science Georgia Milestones Assessment.



School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Russell Elementary School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Russell Elementary School 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 Russell Elementary School 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

Russell Elementary School 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. Russell Elementary School 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?

Russell Elementary School 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 SY26, 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.



Family-School Compacts

As part of this plan, Russell Elementary School 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!

Russell Elementary School 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 Russell Elementary School.



Incoming Kindergarten Orientation Camp- June 1st – June 4th, 2026

Families of rising Kindergarteners will be introduced to Russell Elementary's expectations, routines, and learning opportunities to prepare for a strong start.

Curriculum in Action Reading Night- September 10, 2026

Families are given a clear picture of what their student will be learning during the school year.

Annual Title I Meeting – August 28, 2026

All families are invited to attend our Annual Title I Meeting to learn more about our Title I program. The meeting will cover: The Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compacts, Parents' rights under Title I, Highlights from the School Improvement Plan, How the 1% family engagement funds are used, and an overview of our curriculum and student assessment tools.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 13-16, 2026.

Families will receive updates on their child's academic progress and performance on assessments. Conferences can also be requested at any time throughout the school year.

Fall School Improvement Input Survey- October 19, 2026.

Families will receive a Title I Evaluation Survey via CTLS Parent. Your feedback helps us improve the school, strengthen family and community engagement efforts, and plan future programs.

Family Math Data Night-January 7, 2027

Gives families the context they need to understand their child's academic performance and become active partners in supporting growth.

Spring School Improvement Input Forum/STEM NIGHT- March 11, 2027

Parents and staff will meet to review and discuss: the Title I Program, Family engagement activities, School-Family Compacts and Policies, family engagement budget, and staff training topics. Families to be expose to science and be involved in hands-on activities and demonstrations.

Rising Six Graders

Fifth-grade families are introduced to the expectations, resources, and learning opportunities available in middle school. Students will participate in a middle school visit and counseling sessions to help prepare them for a successful transition to middle school.

Other Parent Activities Provided by the School with Descriptions:

Academic Engagement Nights

Held quarterly, these events allow each grade level to share academic strategies and resources with families to support learning at home.

Engagement Nights

Special school-wide events that bring the community together, including musical performances, STEM/Art Night, Holiday Gathering, Wellness & Fitness Night, etc.

Wellness & Fitness Night

Families participate in fun physical activities, receive health education, and explore local health resources.

PTA-Sponsored Events

October Tailgate and Spring Fling bring families together to strengthen our school community through fun and collaboration.

Monthly Academic Newsletter

Provided every month, these newsletters focus on key learning standards and real-world strategies families can use to support students at home.



Parent Resource Center (Room 102)

Hours: Monday – Friday

8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

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

Parental Involvement

Russell Elementary School believes that parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular two-way, 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

Russell Elementary School 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.

Yajaira Cotto
(770) 437-5937 or
yajaira.cotto@cobbk12.org

One Team, One Goal, Student Success

Russell Elementary School 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 all newsletters 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.



COBB COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

ONE TEAM. ONE GOAL.
STUDENT SUCCESS.

Parental Involvement Standards

Russell Elementary School 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

Parent Involvement Opportunities

- ☐ I am interested in participating on the car rider duty.
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering in the front office.
- ☐ I am interested in volunteering in the media center.
- ☐ 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 yajaira.cotto@cobbk12.org
or deliver form to the school's Main Office.

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. Marilyn Thomas, Principal,
marilyn.thomas@cobbk12.org

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:
