

PIEDMONT CITY SCHOOLS
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2020-2021
(From Every Student Succeeds Act)

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Piedmont City School System agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with ESSA. Those programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent ESSA, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of ESSA, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with ESSA.
- The school district will incorporate this Local Education Agency (LEA) Parent and family engagement plan into its LEA plan developed under ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A Parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for Parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) 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;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in ESSA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

1. The **Piedmont City School System** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA Parent and family engagement plan under ESSA:
 - A. *Hold annual Title I Parent Meetings and invite all parents to attend*
 - B. *Design the meeting agenda to include the parent involvement policy/plan and to solicit input from parents*
 - C. *Display the parent and family engagement portion of the consolidated plan at the meeting and encourage parents to review the document and to share their opinions*

2. The **Piedmont City School System** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under ESSA:
 - A. *At the annual Title I Parent Meetings, the academic achievement results and status of each school will be announced and reviewed*
 - B. *Suggestions will be solicited from parents on instructional strategies, professional development, and other activities to enhance student achievement*

3. The **Piedmont City School System** will provide the necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - A. *A Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will be employed from School-wide funds to assist Title I Part A schools with parent involvement*
 - B. *The Federal Programs Coordinator will collaborate with the Parent Involvement Coordinator and each school's staff to plan parent involvement activities designed to solicit parent involvement and improvement of student academic achievement*

4. The **Piedmont City School System** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with parent and family engagement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Office of School Readiness State-operated preschool programs, and 21st Century Community Learning Program, by:
 - A. *Including parents of these programs in annual Title I Parent Meetings and committee meetings*
 - B. *Sharing facilities and activities with the children involved in the pre-school and 21st-century community learning programs.*

5. The **Piedmont City School System** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and family engagement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in Parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation of its parent and family engagement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its Parent and family engagement policies.
 - A. *Needs Assessment instruments will be designed and distributed to parents to collect their opinions on the effectiveness of the programs and activities*
 - B. *School personnel will conduct the evaluation at the annual Title I Parent Meeting*
 - C. *Parents will be encouraged to complete the evaluations through various forms of media and the results will be included in the planning process for the coming school year*

6. The **Piedmont City School System** will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

1. *Scheduling special parent and child involvement nights and providing appropriate equipment and/or materials for projects*
2. *Distributing parent help materials at meetings and maintaining a parent place at Title I, Part A schools where helpful materials are made available to parents at no charge*

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Including administrators, teachers, and other staff members in the Annual Title I Meetings
- Jointly completing the parent-school compact
- Scheduling regular parent-teacher conference days
- Utilizing Facebook, twitter, school websites, school cast, and mass emails to communicate proven parent involvement strategies

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Meeting with Head Start and other community preschool program parents to invite them to be a part of our school system's parent involvement activities
- Including parents of our 3 pre-school classes in all parent involvement activities
- Inviting parents of our 21st-century community learning program to be part of system-wide parent involvement activities.

E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

1. *Distribute meeting notifications and other pertinent program information to parents prior to meetings in a language the parents understand*
2. *Provide an interpreter, if necessary, to assist with communication during conferences and meetings*
3. *Utilizing Facebook, twitter, school websites, school cast, and mass emails to communicate directly with parents*

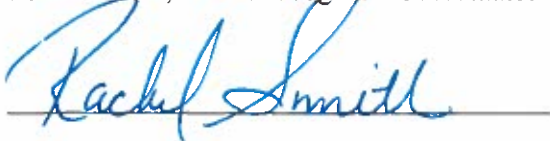
PART III. DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize Parent and family engagement and participation in their children’s education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a LEA parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to Parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in Parent and family engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for Parent and family engagement activities under ESSA as parents may request.

PART IV. APPROVAL

This LEA Parent and Family engagement plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Rachel Smith Federal Programs Coordinator for Piedmont City Schools. The school district will make this plan available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2020.

Rachel Smith, Federal Programs Coordinator



Mike Hayes, Superintendent



Revised: September 16, 2020