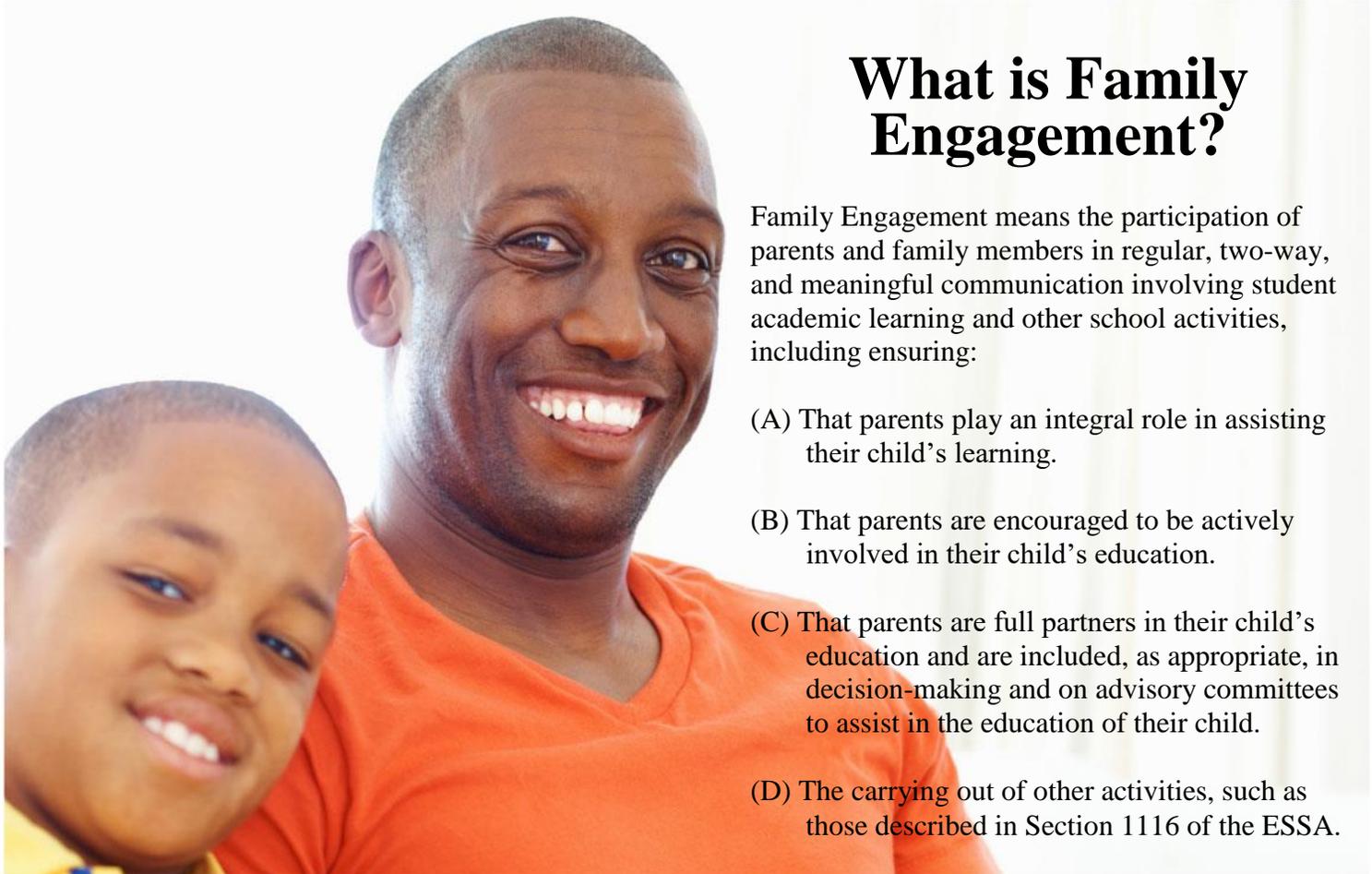


# Sumter County School District

## Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2019–2020  
Revised April 3, 2019  
100 Learning Lane  
Americus, GA 31709  
www.sumterschools.org



### 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, 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.
- (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 Section 1116 of the ESSA.

### About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Sumter County School District (SCSD) 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 SCSD'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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (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. Consistent with Section 1116, the SCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

## Jointly Developed

During the annual District's Stakeholder Input meeting in April, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019-2020 school year. The district sent a flyer to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used its Parent Advisory Council to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the school year.

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 July was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy will be posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.

## Strengthening Our School

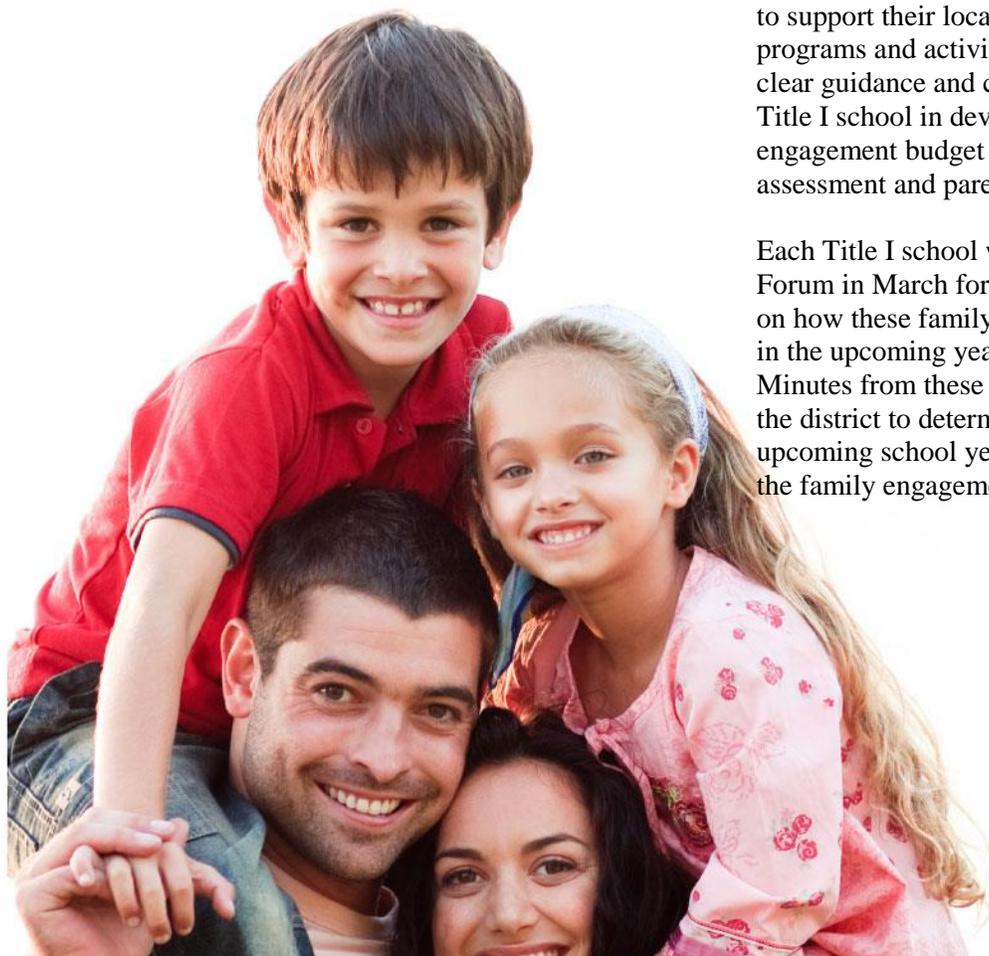
This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school PICs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a workshop in April for principals and PICs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

## Reservation of Funds

The SCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY19 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the SCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to 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.

Each Title I school will host an annual School Input Forum in March for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.





## Opportunities for Meaningful Parent 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 attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

### **District Input Meeting ~ March 2020**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Sumter 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 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

### **District Improvement Forums ~ May/June 2020**

During this week, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the districtwide plan, the district's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. The district will send invitations home and email and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the District Improvement Forum will also be made available on the district website.

Parent 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 as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

## Building Capacity

The SCSD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

The SCSD will work with its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The SCSD will provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about the state-adopted standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I school's newsletter.

The SCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's parental involvement programs with the Head Start program and other state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on parent engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Ready days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The SCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources. Title I will collaborate with other programs such as Early Intervention Program (EIP), counselors, Parent Teacher Associations/Organizations (PTA/PTO's), Lottery Pre-K Program, Neglected & Delinquent (N & D) institutions, Head Start, Homeless, Drug Free Schools, Adult Education, Even Start/Family Literacy, to integrate parent involvement strategies and programs.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will send home a districtwide monthly newsletter with information for parents. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

The SCSD will conduct four trainings during the school year for principals and school PICs to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district parent engagement coordinator will also provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. The SCSD will host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

The SCSD has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school's Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council.

# Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the SCSD 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 schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in February, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school

websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The SCSD will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district parent engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support 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*

Annual Parent Survey  
February 2020

District Improvement Forum  
May/June, 2020

District Input Meeting  
March, 2020  
Sumter County Board Office

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Sumter County School District on April 3, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2019.

If you have any questions and/or feedback, please contact:

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