



Carroll County School System

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Revised July 21, 2020
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2020-2021

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 ESEA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Carroll County School System (CCSS) has developed a parent and family engagement plan 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 CCSS'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 CCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans 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 CCSS Title I Parent and Stakeholder Input meeting in August, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2020-2021 school year. The district posted an announcement on the school district website and requested all schools to post the announcement on their individual websites. The invitation was also placed in the local newspaper. During our virtual meeting parents review and may provide input on components of the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) which includes the CCSS Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the Foster Care Transportation Plan for CCSS, and other required documents.

Upon final revision, the CCSS Parent and Family Engagement Plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time by submitting written comments to the Director of Federal Programs. All parent and stakeholder feedback received by August 31, 2020 was included in the plan for this school year.

The CCSS Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be posted on district/school websites and made available in the school systems Central Registration Office.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the Title I Director and contracted Title I Specialist 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 Title I Director and the Title I Specialist to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the Title I Director and Title I Specialist will hold semi-annual meetings with its School Level FECs to review family engagement programs and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene technical assistance/trainings in June and July for principals and FECs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year. It is possible that many family engagement activities will be offered virtually.

Reservation of Funds

The CCSS will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY21 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the CCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their school-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 a *Title I Parent and Stakeholder Input* meeting for parents and others represented to provide suggestions regarding how the family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at school-level. Input forms and detailed agendas/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. In addition to the meeting, both the school district and schools will offer another opportunity for input for the stakeholders.





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 participate in two meeting opportunities described in this section to receive an overview of the Title I Program and to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach the student academic achievement goals.

Annual Title I Parent and Family Meeting *August 4, 2020 @ 4:00 via CCSS Facebook*

All Title I parents were invited receive an overview of the CCSS Title I Program for the 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this meeting was advertised to all parents in advance through the local newspaper. The district also communicated the invitation through the Title I Schools and district website. Each school will also host an Annual Title I Meeting to provide all of their parents and families with an overview of their individual school's Title I Program and required components.

Title I Parent and Family Input Meeting *August 4, 2020 @ 4:30 via CCSS Facebook*

The input meeting was used as a platform for all Title I parents and stakeholders to provide input regarding the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the CLIP, and the 1% Parental Involvement Budget. Each Title I school will host an input meeting for parents and family members to participate in the review of the Title I Schoolwide Plan, school's Parent and Family Engagement Plans, School-Parent Compacts as well as provide input on the family engagement 1% parental involvement. Each Title I school will invite all parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting using multiple modes of communication.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual Title I/district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as other facets of the Title I Program. **The school system will provide an opportunity for parents to provide input at a date to be determined in the spring of 2021.**

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.carrollcountyschools.com to review the meeting documents leave your input when applicable.

Building Capacity

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

Of Parents - Title I schools will 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 Title I Schools will provide classes or workshops 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 assessments.

The CCSS will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish when necessary.

The CCSS will ensure that the Title I Schools coordinate and integrate the 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 family engagement activities. In the spring, Title I schools host transition parental involvement activities so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next grade level. The CCSS will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

Of School Staff - The CCSS will conduct three trainings each year for principals and school FECs to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. Each Title I School is required to educate teachers and school staff about the value and importance of parents and families as equal partners. The Director of Federal Programs requires Title I Principals and FECs to provide at least two trainings for their faculty and staff relative to parental involvement, parental communication, barriers to communication, etc.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. During the summer, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems—school messenger, district and school websites, and local news media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the CCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey.

Beginning in March, 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. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will use evaluation forms during each of their parental

involvement opportunities to discuss the needs of parents and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The CCSS will use the findings from the various evaluations 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 plans.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the contracted Title I Specialist will communicate and collaborate with other system level departments and Title I Schools 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
March of 2021

CCSS Annual Title I Parent and Family Meeting
August 4, 2020 @ 4:00 p.m.
*virtual meeting

CCSS Title I Parent and Stakeholder Meeting
August 4, 2020 @ 4:30 p.m.
*virtual meeting

For Schools

Title I Principal's Meeting
6/25/20, 7/9/20 9:00 a.m.
CCSS T&L Center

Title I Bookkeeper's Meeting
July 30, 2020 1:00 p.m.
CCS T&L Center

Title I FEC's Meeting
August 3, 2020 9:00 a.m.
CCS T&L Center

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan 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 CCSS Title I Parent and Stakeholder INPUT Meeting which was held on August 4, 2020.

This plan was adopted by the Carroll County School System on September 1 and will be in effect for the 2020-2021 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A students on or before September 30, 2020.

