



2020 – 2021 Trion City School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

239 Simmons Street
Trion, GA 30753

Revised Sept 15, 2020
<http://www.trionschools.org>
706-734-2991

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 Trion City School District (TCSD) 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 TCSD'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 ACSD 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

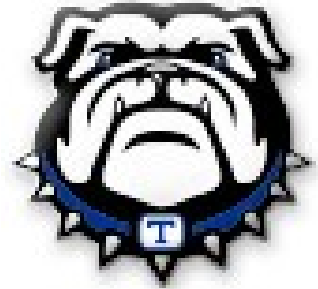
Normally during the month of May a stakeholder feedback session and a survey are held, and all are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2020-202 school year. The district included information about the opportunity to participate in flyers sent to all stakeholders informing them about these opportunities and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).

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's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in the Family Engagement Center, disseminate it on social media, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand to the greatest extent possible.

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the Title I Coordinator will aid and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notification and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen parent/family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the Title I Coordinator will hold meetings and trainings with the Title I parent/family engagement coordinator to review parent/family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the Title I Director will provide technical assistance and specific meetings for the purpose of reviewing parent/family engagement requirements and for planning opportunities for parent/family engagement.



Reservation of Funds

TCSD is not required to make a reservation of Title I funds for parent engagement activities. Should it ever become necessary, TCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1111(d) of the ESSA. Furthermore, TCSD will distribute the 1 percent set aside to the Title I schools to support their local-level parent/family engagement programs and activities. The Title I Coordinator will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parent/family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent/family recommendations. Each Title I school will host an annual evaluation meeting in the Spring or survey parents to obtain feedback from parents for suggestions how these parental involvement funds may be used in the upcoming year. Parent/Family Engagement budget and expenditures must align to the purpose for Parent/Family Engagement as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Survey results/comment cards will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the parent/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.

- *A parent meeting will be held annually to review the Consolidated LEA's Implementation Plan, to evaluate its effectiveness for current FY21, and make suggestions for upcoming FY22.*
- *A parent meeting will be held in the annually to review the district's parent involvement plan and to evaluate its effectiveness for effectiveness for current FY21 and make suggestions for upcoming FY22.*
- *Schools will host parent meetings and provide opportunities for parents to provide input into the schools' parent involvement plans, compacts, and Schoolwide program plans.*
- *Surveys will be made available during the spring of each school year to all parents to receive feedback and input regarding the academic program and parent involvement.*

Building Capacity

TCSD 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 districtwide activities and programs.

TCSD will work as a district and through 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. Meetings that allow parents to focus student data, develop families' capacity to work with their children in the home, and follow-ups will be held face-to-face once COVID allows. Virtual meetings will also be held to help families gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, 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.

TCSD will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials 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. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), TCSD technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by Trion Elementary School.

TCSD encourages collaboration and participation with community partners by posting recordings of council and other district meetings on the website and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

The TCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's 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. TCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

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 announcements of events 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 and its schools will also utilize the designated One-Call telephone system, school Websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

TCSD will conduct trainings during the school year for principals and parent involvement coordinators to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent/family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and community. By October 31st, each Title I school will survey our parents asking them questions regarding communication, challenges/obstacles, and needs the parents have in being a partner with the school in their child's education. We will take the results of this survey and share the feedback gathered with the faculty and staff. Then, we will work as a faculty and staff to improve communication, remove obstacles, and meet the needs of parents in their effort to be a partner with the school in their child's education. Trainings will focus on creating a welcoming environment and improving two-way communication with families.

Parental Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the TCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I Schools through an annual parent survey.

TCSD will notify parents of the survey through emails, school announcements, and District Website announcements in the Spring.

In addition to the annual survey, parents may provide feedback throughout the year regarding the district and school parent involvement activities by completing the feedback form found online at www.trionschools.org

TCSD will use the findings from the school and system surveys, and the Title I Evaluation of Parent Involvement checklist to design strategies to improve effective parent involvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parental involvement plans.

Ways to Stay Informed:

Mrs. Angie Thomas' Google Classroom
<https://classroom.google.com/u/1/h>
enter code: Fxaji7e

Mrs. Thomas' Remind
Text @tespaw to 81010

Annual Title I Facebook Live Meeting

State of the District Meeting – Date and location to be determined later depending on COVID-19 situation.

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 Trion School District on September 14, 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020- 2021 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 September 1, 2019.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family 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.

Your Input Matters

We welcome your suggestions, questions, and feedback at any time! Please submit comments below, and if there is any part of this plan that you find unsatisfactory for the parents and students at Trion Elementary, please let us know. Your comments can be submitted to the Trion Elementary School front office.

If your comments indicate that the plan is unsatisfactory, the school will submit them to Kelly R. Wilson, Federal Programs Director
Trion City Schools
239 Simmons Street
Trion, GA 30747
706-734-2363
kelly.wilson@trionschools.org