



Fannin County School System
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
SY 2020-21
June 24, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Fannin County School System receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop and disseminate to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Fannin County School System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children including children who are under the care of CCI/CPA (such as *Open Arms*) who are acting as the guardian for children in their care.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- 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, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format 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 Section 1112 of the 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 be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/ family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:
 - Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:
 - Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - 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;
 - Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Fannin County School System will involve parents and family members in jointly developing its Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide Plans, school Parent and Family Engagement Plans, and Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) or Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) plans if those were to become required for the district. We will encourage active involvement in plan revision and development by:

- Inviting parents/guardians as well as interested community members to review the school and district engagement and improvement plans annually and provide feedback;
- Inviting parents/guardians to district and school sponsored functions to encourage an equal partnership in educating their child;
- Ensuring that current engagement and improvement plans for all schools and the district are available on the system or school websites for parent or guardians to access;
- Reserving two seats on every school's local School Governance Team for parent/guardian representatives;
- Publishing, advertising, and encouraging parent/guardian involvement in school committees which may include but are not limited to the School Improvement Team, Positive Behavior Intervention Support Team and Parent Advisory Groups.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Fannin County School System will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Provide guidance to schools regarding their school level engagement plan;
- Reach out and encourage community businesses to support parent/guardian employees by allowing them to attend school events, including parent conferences, which may occur during their work day.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Fannin County School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and

effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies. The system will:

- Identify through survey data any participation barriers experienced by parents, particularly parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency (LEP), have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background.
- Develop solutions to remove the barriers of participation which may include scheduling events at different times of the day, offering multiple opportunities to participate, or providing childcare or transportation if requested.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Fannin County School System will involve the parents and family members 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 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools. Parents will have an opportunity every fall to review this budget and make suggestions for expenditures by attending Parent Advisory Group meetings or contacting the Parent Liaison at each elementary school or the Parent Involvement Coordinator at the middle school. Additionally, parents will be surveyed regarding the best use of these funds.

Reserved funds may be used to provide professional development for district and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members. Additionally, the schools may use a portion of these funds to support programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school or provide information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Fannin County School System, to the extent feasible and practicable, will develop and offer parent and family engagement opportunities to families who:

- Have children enrolled in other Federal, State, or local early learning programs (i.e. Head Start, Bright from the Start pre-K, etc.);
- Have students who are transitioning from elementary school to middle school or from middle school to high school;
- Have students who will graduate from high school and move into the postsecondary environment.

Additionally, the Fannin County School System will continue to provide early literacy resources such as books and age-appropriate print material to children of our residents who are not yet

school-aged in order to build literacy in our community and support our “Get Georgia Reading” initiative.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Fannin County School System will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents’ capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The Georgia Standards of Excellence
- State and local academic assessments, including Milestones Assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child’s progress
- How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Fannin County School System will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by offering trainings, workshops, and other learning opportunities to support the relationship between home and school. The topics for these relationship building trainings will be determined by survey results, input from the faculty and staff and parent input which may include reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1116.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Fannin County School system will build involvement for all groups of stakeholders by:

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training and forge meaningful relationships;
- Training parents to encourage and support the involvement of other parents;
- Maximizing parental involvement and participation by scheduling school meetings, events, and activities at a variety of times.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by stakeholder feedback meeting agendas, sign in sheets, and follow up survey data during the late winter and early spring of 2020.

This policy was finalized by the Fannin County School System on June 24, 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020-21 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 4, 2020.



Signature of authorized official

7-29-2020

Date