

Pulaski County School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2020-2021
Revised July 30, 2020
72 Warren St.
Hawkinsville, GA. 31036
www.pulaski.k12.ga.us
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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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Pulaski County School District (PCSS) 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 PCSS' 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 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. The PCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed

All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2020-2021 school year. The district shared information about this input survey on the district website and school Facebook pages. Parents were also encouraged to review and revise the parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget through surveys provided on the PCES and PCMS website, Facebook pages, and school events.

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 1st, 2020 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand. A link will also be shared on each school's Facebook page.



Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical 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 FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a summit in August 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.

Reservation of Funds

The PCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2020-2021 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the PCSS 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 hosted an annual School Improvement Forum in May for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings were reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact the FEC in the district office.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners 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.

Annual Title I Input Meeting ~ Spring 2021

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from PCSS as well as review and provide input into the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the following school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home with students, shared on the school website and Facebook page, and published in the local newspaper. Date, time, and platform will also be shared at a later date.

Annual Parent Survey~ February/March 2021

Input on family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments. Surveys will be shared with parents on the school website and Facebook page as well as at parent events. Hardcopies will also be available.

School Improvement Forums ~ Summer 2021

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send invitations home as well as email parents to notify them about the date, time, and platform of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites and Facebook pages.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit the PCSS website to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



Building Capacity

PCSS will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, PCSS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives.

Of Parents – PCSS will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide timely 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. PCSS will provide opportunities 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 assessment. The dates, locations, and platform for these events/activities will be announced at a later date.

PCSS will also coordinate resources in the Parent Resource Centers 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, including copies in Spanish. In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent resources, helpful websites, and other materials for at-home learning. Any locally approved instructional materials and content used by the school system shall be available for review on site upon request during school hours. Inquiries can be directed to Debbie Puckett, Assistant Superintendent. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system (Infinite Campus) and other digital educational resources, the PCSS technology specialist will partner with Title I schools to host learning sessions for parents. Dates, times, and platform for these activities will be announced at a later date.

PCSS will coordinate and integrate the district’s family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as Pulaski County Head Start, Pulaski County Family Connection, and other federal and state funded programs in the district. PCSS collaborates with Family Connection to provide advice on matters related to family engagement and strengthening student academic achievement. This Collaborative is comprised of parents from each Title I school, business and community leaders, and health care partners. Dates of the meetings are emailed to all members and placed in the local newspaper. Minutes from these meetings are emailed to all members to ensure continuous communication. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities.

Transition activities will be scheduled for each transitional grade, Pre-K, 5th, 8th, and 11th. These will include activities for students and parents to help prepare for the next school year.

Of School Staff - PCSS will conduct trainings during the school year for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will include a New School Year Orientation, Family Partnership Videos and Reflections, and additional activities. The Title I Director and District FEC will attend additional trainings to be redelivered to faculty and staff.

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. At the beginning of the year, 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. Schools will share information with parents through flyers sent home with students, the school’s website and social media pages, e-newsletter emailed to parents, the local newspaper, and on each school’s marquee. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the PCSS 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.

In the Spring, 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.

PCSS 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 and plans.

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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Title I Meeting
Fall 2020

Annual Parent Survey
Feb/March 2021

Title I Input Meeting
Spring 2021

School Improvement Forum
Spring 2021

For Schools

Principal/Staff and FEC Meetings
Monthly or as called.



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 Pulaski County School District on July 30th, 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 before or during the first week of fall semester.