

COLQUITT COUNTY SCHOOLS PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2021-2022

Revised May 26, 2021

Parents and Families Matter

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As your partner in education, we have provided this menu of resources to help you and your child get the most out of their educational experience with Colquitt County School District at <https://www.colquitt.k12.ga.us/>

Registration, Calendars, School Nutrition Program, School Locator, Student Programs, Athletics, District Forms, School Counselors and many more resources.

What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents or other family members, in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including making ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- 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.
- 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 Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Colquitt County School System (CCSS) has developed this 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 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. CCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Parent & Family Engagement



Jointly Developed with Parents and Family Members

All parents were invited to provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement plan for the 2021-2022 school year via social media and district and school websites by completing an online survey. The district posted an announcement on the district website and on each individual school website. Parents who could not attend the meetings were invited to complete a feedback form that was shared on the District Parent Post Newsletter.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP that 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 their child's school. All feedback received will be considered and the plan will be revised as needed since it is a living document.

The updated district parent and family engagement plan will be posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings at the beginning of the school year, made available in the schools' parent resource centers/areas, and at the school system's Central Enrollment Center.

COVID-19 impacted our ability to hold this as a face-to-face meeting.

Strengthening Our Schools/Technical Assistance to Schools

The district Title I program managers will provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that strategies and activities to build effective family capacity which leads to student achievement and school performance are being implemented.

During the year school administrators and school family engagement staff will receive training on developing meaningful two-way communication and consultation with families. This will include building capacities for strong staff and family engagement with EL families.



Reservation of Funds

The CCSS will reserve one percent from the total amount of the Title I, Part A funds it receives in FY22 to carry out family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, CCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities with priority being given to high need schools. 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 school will send out a One Percent Family Engagement Budget survey (fall) to parents and conduct a Family Forum (spring) where the one percent family engagement budget is discussed. Parent/Family feedback forms and minutes will be collected from this meeting. The survey and meeting feedback will be used to determine areas of family engagement need for the upcoming school year.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited and encouraged to share their input and suggestions throughout the year on the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the CLIP and Schoolwide Improvement/Title I Schoolwide Plan/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan in the following ways:

- In the spring of 2021, all parents of children in Title I schools were invited to give input and feedback on the District Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment/District Improvement Plan. Open community input meetings were held virtually and online feedback forms were available in May/June to gather input for the district needs assessment. Parents, students (when appropriate), and staff surveys are given annually and used in the needs assessment and planning process
- Feedback forms are available at the school, online and in the community
- To the extent feasible, schools and the district will use virtual options to host meetings and collect parent input
- The annual district survey is available on the district Federal Programs webpage at <https://www.colquitt.k12.ga.us/families/parent-and-family-engagement> or through the district Title I link on each Title I school's website.
- Contacting the Federal programs Parent Engagement Department at 229-890-6200, ext. 10034

Parents will be notified via school and district website, notifications at the school, announcements at parent events and in the community about these opportunities as they are scheduled. Feedback forms are provided online as well as in the schools and in the community giving parents the opportunity to share their input and suggestions on the use of Title I funds, their school's Title I family engagement program, their school's school-family compact, their school's family engagement plan and the district family engagement plan.

Building Family and School Capacity

CCSS will build school and parent capacity for strong family engagement. This capacity will ensure effective engagement of parents and family members in supporting partnerships among the Title I schools, parents, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement. To build this capacity, the Colquitt County School District will implement the activities outlined below.

For Parents/Families

CCSS will work as a district and through its schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information such as how Georgia Milestones and the Georgia Standards of Excellence connect to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. SCCPSS will provide 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 monitoring student progress and alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these workshops will be advertised on websites and sent home with students.

CCSS will also conduct workshops such as literacy training and maintain district and school websites that will contain academic content resources and materials and ways to help parents work with their children at home to improve academic achievement. Copies of materials will be made available at all schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in the student's home language. Additionally, workshops and webpages will assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy). Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The CCSS 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. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities.

For School Staff

The CCSS will conduct four trainings during the school year for principals and school faculty and 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 be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools.

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. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize district and school websites, local news media, social media outlets, and other school message systems to post information for parents.



Parent and Family Engagement Annual Evaluation

Each year, CCSS federal programs 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 a parent input meeting and the School Improvement Forums (virtually and/or in-person).

Throughout the school year, each Title I school will give parents the opportunity to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. This input will also be posted on the district and school websites as well as social media outlets for parents to provide feedback. 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 CCSS will use the findings from the school forums and the input 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 district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Special Education and ESOL Departments 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.

Upcoming Family Engagement Opportunities

- CLIP and parent, family and community input meetings: Spring 2022; in addition to multiple other input opportunities for all stakeholders between March and May 2022
- Annual parent surveys spring 2022
- School parent input meetings February 2022 – April 2022
- School parent and family engagement events and activities (check your school parent events calendars, compacts and Parent and Family Engagement Plans August 2021 – May 2022)
- All District and school activities for the 2021-2022 school year are virtual unless otherwise announced.

Adoption of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

This districtwide family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in all schools to include Title I Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school and district personnel.

This plan was adopted by the Colquitt County School System (CCSS) Federal Programs Department on May 28, 2021 and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The district will make the plan available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2021.

Thank you, Colquitt County Schools parents, families, and school community, for your valuable input which helped to jointly develop this Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Staying engaged in your child's education and the decision-making process for schools and the district is vital to our success. If at any time during the year you have additional comments or feedback regarding this plan or other matters relating to your school and district parent and family engagement programs, feel free to contact the Federal programs Department via phone, email or by mailing the form below. We look forward to meeting you at our next stakeholder input meeting in the spring.



Class of 2021



Stakeholder Input Comments

Please contact me regarding my concern/comment.

Phone _____ Email: _____

Name: _____ (Please Print)

I am a: __ Parent __ family member __ school staff member __ community member.

My child attends _____ ES MS JH HS (circle)

Date: _____

Comments may be mailed or emailed to the following:

Federal programs Department

710 Lane Street/P.O. Box 2708 | Moultrie, Georgia 31768/31776 | 229-890-6200



Colquitt County Title I Schools

School

Colquitt County High School
C. A. Gray Jr High
W. J. Williams Middle School
Cox Elementary School
Doerun Elementary
Funston Elementary
Hamilton Elementary
Norman Park Elementary
Odom Elementary
Okapilco Elementary
Stringfellow Elementary
Sunset Elementary

Administrator

Mr. Daniel Chappuis
Dr. Fred Smith
Mr. Jim Horne
Mr. Kristi Gonzales
Mrs. Kati Stephan
Mr. Ricky Reynolds
Mrs. Krista Harrell
Mr. Stacey Rutledge
Mr. Marlon Daniels
Dr. Gistacy Brown
Mr. Brian Knighton
Dr. Josh Purvis



Mr. Ben Wiggins

Mr. Todd Hall

Mr. Jeff Horne

Ms. Darlene Reynolds

Mrs. Yolanda Carr-Fuller

Superintendent

Federal Programs Director

Assistant Federal Programs Director

Parent and Family Engagement Director

Federal Programs Secretary





