

# Fayette County Public Schools

## 2023 – 2024 Parent and Family Engagement Policy

205 LaFayette Avenue  
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Revised June 30, 2023



*Where Excellence and Creativity Merge*

### 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, Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) 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 FCPS'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. FCPS 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

As part of the Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement process, the district hosts an annual meeting with faculty, parents, students, and community members in the development of the FCPS Comprehensive Needs Assessment. All parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement policy. During this meeting, parents also reviewed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). A CLIP Survey was provided for stakeholders to provide input on CLIP information posted on the Title I website. The district Planning Committee continued the process by developing the District Improvement Plan, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, and other components of the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). The district sent an Infinite Campus e-mail/letter, posted an announcement on the district website, and provided a media release to inform stakeholders of the opportunity to provide input. Additionally, each Title I school collaborated with their Leadership Team/Planning Committee to review the Parent and Family Engagement Plan before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy are 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 was considered for revisions to this policy for this school year.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent



## Strengthening Our School

The Coordinator of Federal Programs 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 Coordinator of Federal programs to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the Coordinator of Federal programs will host meetings and trainings with its Title I schools to review family engagement plans and activities.

### Reservation of Funds

FCPS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2023-2024 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. FCPS will distribute at least 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement 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 hosts annual Parent Input meetings for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Surveys 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 Coordinator of Federal Programs in the district office.

### Communications

FCPS will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone, emails, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The district and school will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events in order for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as ways parents can monitor their child's progress.

## 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.

### **Federal Programs Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Meeting ~ April/May**

Stakeholders are welcome to hear the latest Title Programs update from our district as well as review and provide input into the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the school year. Meeting invitations will be sent via Infinite Campus-e-mail in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the district website.

### **Title I Parent Input Opportunities and Annual Title I Meetings ~ November, January, and May**

Title I schools will host annual meetings for parents to participate in roundtable discussions to review the school-wide plan, the school's parent and family engagement plan as well as provide input on the parental engagement budget and related initiatives. Each Title I school will send a letter home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the input meetings. Information regarding Title I meetings will also be made available on the school websites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parent and family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey and school-based surveys. The survey will contain questions related to the parent engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

For additional information, please access our district website:

<https://www.fcboe.org/Page/5198>



Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the FCPS website.



### **Annual Title I Meeting before November 2023**

At the beginning of the school year, all Title I schools will host a meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I. Please visit your school's website for details.

### **School-Parent Compacts**

As part of this plan, all Title I schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students the challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The compacts will be revised annually, distributed to all families, reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.

# Building Capacity

Fayette County Public Schools (FCPS) 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, FCPS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. Every effort will be made to provide transportation and child care to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and events.

**Of Parents** - FCPS will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related the State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district and school's website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

FCPS Parent Advisory Council, made up of parent representatives from each Title I school, advises the district and schools on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the council. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.

FCPS 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, 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. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Ready days, Middle and High School Transition Nights, and College and Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

**Of School Staff** - FCPS conducts collaborative sessions during the school year for principals and Title I personnel to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. Information received during these sessions will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The Coordinator of Federal Programs will also provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parent engagement requirements and initiatives.

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' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable.



# Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, FCPS 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.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey by email 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 provide a Parent Input meeting 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.

FCPS will use the findings from the school meetings 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.

## 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.

## 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.

This policy was adopted by Fayette County Public Schools on June 30, 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 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.

## Mark Your Calendars

### *For Parents*

Annual Title I Informative Meeting

November 2023  
Local school site

Parent Workshops

Dates Vary

Please see your school's website for details

Federal Programs Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)

Input Meeting

April 2024

Annual Parent Input Survey

April 2024

Provided by each Title I school

### *For Schools*

Title I Orientation/Training  
September 2023

Title I Technical Assistance Meetings  
On-going

Parent and Family Engagement Check-Ins  
November - January 2024

Title I Monitoring  
March 2024

Title I End of Year Meeting  
May 2024

