



Coweta County School System

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PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY/PLAN 2019-2020

Final Revision July 9, 2019

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.) The 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 Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Coweta County School System (CCSS) has jointly 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 Coweta County School System’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 Coweta County School System 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 consistent with Section 1116 of the ESSA.

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 meetings 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. An online continuous improvement survey will also be available for parents and stakeholders to give feedback.

Annual Continuous Improvement District Meeting – May 28, 2020

The district will hold an annual continuous improvement meeting on May 28, 2020, inviting all parents to attend. Parents will hear the latest updates on federal programs as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan and the Comprehensive LEA/District Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the schools and school district website. Parents who attend this meeting will fill out a stakeholder input form. Parents and stakeholders will also have the opportunity to give feedback/input by completing an online survey that will be posted on the district and schools' websites. This is also an option for the parents who cannot attend the meeting. A draft of the district parent and family engagement plan/policy will be available on the website and front office.

School Improvement & Input Meetings – May-July 2019 and throughout the 2019-2020 school year

During the summer and throughout the school year, principals will invite all parents to participate in discussions to give input on the school wide plan and the school's parent and family engagement plan. Parents also provide input on the school/parent compact, family engagement budget and program trainings. Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parental and family engagement programs may also be given during these meetings. Each Title I school will notify parents in multiple ways (flyers, newsletters, marquee, the "one-call-now" system, text messages, emails, etc.) about the date and time of the meeting. A draft of the school parent and family engagement plan/policy will be available on the school website, in the front office and in the school parent resource center for parents who cannot attend. They will be able to review and make comments. Plans will be available in native languages per parents' requests.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support 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.

Jointly Developed

During the Continuous Improvement Meeting on May 30, 2019, **ALL** parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. The district posted an announcement on the school and district websites, as well as, sent flyers to schools to send home. During this meeting, parents reviewed and gave input on the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, parents and staff reviewed the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan was incorporated into the CLIP and submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan/policy at any time by submitting written comments to their child's school, or the district Title I office. All feedback received by July 2019 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district parent and family engagement plan is posted on the district website, distributed during the annual Title I school-meetings, and made available in the school's parent resource centers or front office and on the website. Per parents' requests, the plan is made available to parents in a format and language they can understand.

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide 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 FEC will hold quarterly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The Title I office will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the parental engagement requirements listed in this plan and described in federal law. Furthermore, CCSS will distribute 90% of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental engagement budget that addresses their needs and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school surveyed parents to get input on how the family engagement funds will be used during the upcoming year. Continuous Improvement Stakeholder Forums were held at various schools during the Spring for parents and families to provide suggestions and input about how to better meet the needs of students and families in our community. Stakeholder input from these meetings were reviewed by the district to determine areas of need and parental engagement budget changes. Additionally, we held a centralized District Continuous Improvement Meeting in May for parents to provide suggestions on parent engagement activities. Feedback forms were placed in the front entrance and on our district website for additional input.

Building Capacity

The CCSS will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. During FY20, the district will meet with principals and Family Engagement Coordinators (FEC's) throughout the year to provide training.

Of Parents

- CCSS will work 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 program and its requirements.

- CCSS Title I schools provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about the Georgia Standards of Excellence, challenging State academic standards, local assessments and achievement goals. Title I schools will also communicate required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessments. The district offers assistance to Title I schools to support parents in understanding the use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists. The dates and location for these classes will be posted on the school's website and shared through other methods of communication at each Title I school.

In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, and test taking tips for at-home learning. Information is available in English and Spanish.

- CCSS's Parent Advisory Council, made up of parent representatives from each Title I school, advises the district and schools on matters related to family engagement when needed.
- CCSS will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies with other preschool readiness programs for children: Puddle Jumpers, Head Start, and Pre-K Programs. Puddle Jumpers is a "Mommy and Me" transition program offered at our Parent Resource Center for 2-3 year olds and their parents to prepare them for Pre-K. In the Spring, Kindergarten readiness meetings are held to provide parents with information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. Middle and High Schools host Transition Nights. College and Career Fairs are held to provide families with information to help prepare their children for the next stage in life.
- CCSS will ensure that the Neglected and Delinquent facilities located in our school attendance areas are included in the parental involvement correspondence and activities.
- CCSS will ensure that information, resources, materials and school reports are provided to parents to help work with their children at home. Copies will be available at the school in an understandable and uniform format; including alternative formats upon request, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. A Google translation application and/or translator may be used to review the document.

Of School Staff

- CCSS will conduct trainings to educate principals and Family Engagement Coordinators (FEC's) on strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to faculty and staff of Title I schools. Available resources that may be used including GADOE webinars and powerpoint presentations.

- 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. Title I schools may also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, CCSS 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 an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

The evaluation will be conducted during the week of **March 16-April 13, 2020**. Each Title I school will send home a survey and provide a link to the survey for parents to give valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. The survey will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete.

The schools will compile their survey results to determine strengths and weaknesses at the school. Each school submits their compiled information to the district office where a district compilation is completed and district needs are addressed for the following year.

CCSS 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/procedures.

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	For Schools
<u>Continuous Improvement & Stakeholder Input Meetings</u> May-July 2019 and ongoing during 2019-2020 school year <i>(Principals will notify all parents of dates and times)</i>	<u>Title I Technical Assistance Quarterly Training - Werz Central Office</u> July 16, 2019 September 11, 2019 December 11, 2019 March 11, 2020
<u>Annual Parent Survey</u> March 16-April 13, 2020	<u>FEC Quarterly Meetings - Werz Central Office</u> July 16, 2019 September 10, 2019 November 12, 2019 February 11, 2020
<u>District Continuous Improvement Stakeholders Input Meeting for FY20</u> Werz Central Office May 28, 2020	

Adoption

This district-wide Parent and Family Engagement Plan 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 Continuous Improvement Stakeholder Input Meeting held on May 30, 2019.

This plan was adopted on July 9, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. Title 1 schools will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2019.