

# Fulton County Schools Title I Parent and Family Engagement Statement 2016-2017

## What is Parental Involvement?

**Parental involvement** means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including 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 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Education, U. D. (2005, June 21). *Title I - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged*. Retrieved from Ed.gov: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html>

## About the Parental Involvement Statement

Title I is a federal program that provides funding to local school districts to help ensure that all children in the District's Title I schools meet the state's high academic standards. Title I, Part A, Section 1118 of The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 provides this supplemental funding and requires that it be used to implement parental involvement programs in each of its Title I schools. In keeping with the requirements of Title I, Part A, Section 1118 of the ESEA, the Fulton County School District (FCSD) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. For purposes of the District's structure, the District calls this "policy" a "statement".

To promote and strengthen student academic achievement and success, the FCSD is committed to the goal of providing a quality education for every child in this District and strengthening family and school partnerships. Therefore, FCSD has jointly developed this parent and family engagement statement with parents to establish the district's expectations, strategies and resources to assist parents in engaging in the education of their child and to build parents' capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement programs and activities. This statement describes how parents can be involved in the development and implementation of the district and school plan as well as how the district will ensure that schools are meeting the parental involvement requirements as mandated by the ESEA.





## Jointly Developed

In the Spring of 2016, all parents of children in Title I schools were invited to give input and feedback on the District Parental Involvement Statement, as well as review and discuss the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). During these meetings, parents were also informed of their opportunity to serve on the Title I Advisory Council. Parents were invited via:

- The Title Talk District Parent Newsletter
- District and school websites
- Flyers and documents made available in all Title I Schools
- School Messenger Parent Phone Tree

In addition, parents could submit their feedback via U.S. mail, email, or fax.

A total of 4 parent input meetings were held at multiple times in multiple locations at schools across the FCSD on May 12<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Upon final revision, the District Parent and Family Engagement Statement is incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. All Title I parents are welcome to offer suggestions or feedback on this statement at any time during the year via email, fax, U.S. mail or on feedback forms provided in each Title I school and on the Title I webpage. The district Title I parental involvement statement is distributed at schools, posted on the district and school websites and made available in local libraries.

## Strengthening Our School

Each year the district Title I Family Engagement Specialists will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement activities are being implemented. The district will provide assistance to Title I schools in the following ways:

- Provide frequent notifications and resources to help schools improve and strengthen family engagement.
- Provide monthly technical assistance to Title I school Principals and Parent Liaisons to review family engagement plans, activities and compliance requirements.
- Provide ongoing guidance during school visits on effective parental involvement practices
- Hold an annual training during the summer for parent liaisons and principals



## Reservation of Funds

The FCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY17 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this statement and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Furthermore, the FCSD will distribute 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 school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. Parents are given the opportunity to give input on how these parental involvement funds will be used in the upcoming year at school and district parent input meetings as well as through annual district and school parent surveys.





# Opportunities for 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 Statement, the CLIP and Schoolwide Improvement/Title I Schoolwide

Program/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan in the following ways:

- Feedback forms available at the school, online and in the community
- School parent input meetings and contacting their Parent Liaison or other parent involvement representative
- The annual district survey available on the district Title I webpage at <http://www.fultonschools.org/en/divisions/acd/supportserv/TitleI/Pages/default.aspx> or through the district Title I link on each Title I school’s website in the **About** menu
- District-wide parent input meetings held at multiple times and in multiple locations in the Spring

Parents will be notified via school and district website, School Messenger, 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 parental involvement program, their school’s school-parent compact, their school’s parental involvement plan and the district parental involvement statement. Each school has a parent council that reviews the school’s Title I Schoolwide Improvement/Title I Schoolwide Program/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and makes recommendations.

## Building School and Parent Capacity

The FCSD will build the schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs:

- Integrate the district’s parental involvement programs with public and private pre-K programs within the county into kindergarten, and other transitions from elementary to middle, middle to high and high to post-secondary options by collaborating with feeder schools to offer transition activities such as parent workshops, school tours, Kindergarten Roundup, and summer bridge
- Parent involvement video in Spanish and English available on the district Title I webpage to give an introduction to parents on how and why they should be involved in their child’s education
- Social media, to the extent feasible, will be used to promote parent engagement opportunities, meetings and communicate with parents at the district and school level about their child’s progress.
- Standards based academic parent workshops based on the needs of the parents and the school’s goals to assist parents in understanding state and academic standards, school curriculum and state assessments and how to monitor their child’s progress will be held on a monthly basis in the schools between October and April. Educational materials and resources are made available in 4 district PRCs, as well as in Title I schools, for parent checkout for



**District Parent Resource Centers**  
Mimosa ES ♦ Lake Forest ES ♦ College Park ES ♦ Palmetto ES

parents to assist their child at home in achieving the state’s academic standards and to train parents on how to assist their child with school curriculum and monitor their child’s progress

- Parent resource links provided on the district Title I webpage
- Training for school staff with the assistance of parents on the value and utility of contributions of parents and how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners and how to implement parent programs and build ties between home and school



- Focused educational activities, such as math and literacy, will be offered at the school level throughout the school year
- To the extent feasible and practical offer translation of Title I documents and information into languages other than English as well as make interpretation available at parent meetings by request or based on enrollment identifiers
- Parent meetings, events and activities will be announced in multiple ways such as School Messenger, school marquees, district and school websites, announcements and flyers at the schools, through social media, sent home with students to parents

## Parental Involvement Evaluation



The FCSD will use the following methods each year to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the districtwide parent and family engagement statement and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools:

- An annual district parent survey will be posted on the district’s Title I webpage and on each Title I school’s website as well as made available at the schools in the main office and/or parent resource center.
- Each school will hold parent input meetings to gather feedback from parents on the content and effectiveness of the schoolwide, targeted assistance and LEA programs and parental involvement plans.
- The FCSD will hold parent input meetings in the spring of each year to gather parent input and feedback.
- Upon summarizing the results of our district annual parent survey, findings will be used to create and develop family engagement strategies for more effective parent involvement and if necessary, revise this statement.
- The annual district parent survey will be used to identify barriers to greater participation in parent involvement with particular attention to certain subgroups as described below in **Accessibility**.

Accessibility	Upcoming Parent Involvement Opportunities
<p>In carrying out the parental involvement requirements, the district Family Engagement Specialists will communicate and collaborate with the Student Support Services division to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, homeless families, parents of migratory children or those of any racial or ethnic background including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLIP and parent input meetings: Spring 2017 (4 meetings)</li> <li>• Annual parent surveys Spring 2017</li> <li>• School parent input meetings August 2016 and Spring 2017</li> <li>• School parent and family engagement events and activities (check your school parent events calendars August 2016 – May 2017)</li> </ul>

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement statement has been jointly developed with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school and district personnel at the parent input meetings in the Spring of 2016. This statement was adopted by the Fulton County School System Title I Department on June 1, 2016 and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 academic school year. The school district will distribute this statement to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 30, 2016.