

# Fulton County Schools Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2020-2021

## Supporting the Whole Child



**The children are the curriculum.**

*~ Lisa Murphy*



# Fulton County Schools Title I LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2020-2021

## 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 ESSA.



<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 Parent and Family Engagement Plan

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 1116 of **The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** provides this supplemental funding and requires that it be used to implement family engagement programs in each of its Title I schools. In keeping with the requirements of Title I, Part A, Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Fulton County School District (FCSD) has developed a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy. For purposes of the District's structure, the District refers to this "policy" as a "plan".

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 plan 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 plan describes how parents can be involved in the development and implementation of the district and school Title I plan as well as how the district will ensure that schools are meeting the family engagement requirements as mandated by Section 1116(b) which includes providing a School-Family compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.





## Jointly Developed

This plan was last developed in May of 2019 when all parents and families of children in Title I schools were invited to give input and feedback on the District Family Engagement Plan, as well as give input on the 1% reservation of funds. During these meetings, parents were also informed of their opportunity to serve on the Title I Advisory Council. Parents were invited via:

- District and school websites
- Social media sites such as Twitter and Next Door
- Flyers and documents made available in all Title I Schools
- Student Bookbags
- School Messenger
- School mass emails

In addition, parents could submit their feedback via U.S. mail, email, or a Google survey available at <http://tinyurl.com/FCSTitleIParentSurveySY19>.

A total of 6 parent input meetings were offered at 4 different times over 3 days at 2 schools across the district and a library on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup>. For 2021 this plan will be rolled over due to circumstances around COVID-19.

Upon final revision, the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan is incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. All Title I parents are welcome to offer suggestions or feedback on this plan at any time during the year via email, fax, U.S. mail or on electronic feedback forms provided on each Title I school and LEA Title I webpage. This Plan will be revised using parent input and then distributed at all Title I schools, posted on the

## Strengthening Our School

Each year the district Title I Family Engagement Specialists will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement 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, school-family compacts, activities and compliance requirements and ensure they are aligned to the Title I plan and focused on increasing academic student achievement.
- Provide ongoing guidance during school visits on effective family engagement 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 FY21 to carry out the family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the FCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved for all 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 school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. Parents are given the opportunity to give input on how these family engagement 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.





district and school websites, and made available to the community prior to November 1, 2020.



## 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 2019, 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, and online feedback forms were available in May to gather input for the district needs assessment. Parent, student, and staff surveys are given annually and used in the needs assessment and planning process. Due to COVID-19 this plan is rolling over with updates.
- Feedback forms available at the school, online and in the community
- Schools will be encouraged to host multiple person-to-person or small group input opportunities throughout the year as requested through parent input. Likewise, the district will offer more opportunities for small group input at schools across the district at parent and family events and in the community.
- To the extent feasible, schools and the district will use virtual options to host meetings and collect parent input
- School parent input meetings and contacting their Parent Liaison or other parent engagement representative
- The annual district survey available on the district Title I webpage at <https://www.fultonschools.org/Page/5179> 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
- Contacting the Title I Department at 470-254-0200

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. Each school has a parent council or stakeholders that review the school's Title I Plan and makes recommendations.

## Building School and Parent Capacity

The FCSD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, 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 family engagement 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. District parent resource centers (PRC) also have transition kits available for parents for the middle and high school levels.
- Social media, to the extent feasible, will be used to promote parent engagement opportunities, meetings and communicate with parents
- 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 throughout the year in the schools between September and May. Educational materials and resources are made available in 4 district PRCs, as well as in Title I schools, for parent checkout for 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. District Family Engagement Specialists facilitate trainings throughout the year on building staff capacity for school parent liaisons, school and district staff. Parent Liaisons, school principals and/or leadership teams work together to deliver in-service training at least once/year to school staff on how to partner with families to implement parent programs/activities and how to effectively communicate and work together as equal partners. In addition to the in-service training, Family Engagement Specialists continually communicate best practices and evidence-based strategies on how to build staff capacity to parent liaisons throughout the year via group trainings, technical assistance visits and emails, who in turn also share with their school staffs.

- In the 2016-2017 school year the FCSD implemented Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) at Palmetto Elementary School in Palmetto, GA for kindergarten. The Georgia Board of Education defines APTT as “a family

*engagement model, designed by Dr. Maria Paredes of WestEd, that strengthens teacher-family relationships by focusing on student academic growth and achievement. The APTT Model elevates the efforts of traditional parent-teacher conferences by inviting all families of the same classroom teacher to meet together rather than individually.”* Within this model, the district uses a Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) to support and sustain the growth of the model in the school. This team, comprised of the school principal, instructional lead teacher, parent liaisons and other teachers, is also responsible for training the core school level staff. This team is supported by the Title I Family Engagement Specialists at the district level. In 2019-2020 Palmetto implemented the model for kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade families. The APTT format is suspended at Palmetto ES for the 2020- 2021 school year.

- All schools will invite all parents and families, throughout the year, to focused educational activities, such as math and literacy family nights; curriculum nights; parent workshops on testing and assessment, technology including the harms of copyright piracy, how to monitor their child’s progress, and understanding the State’s high academic standards.

- Parents requested assistance from staff with student discipline and behavioral interventions. The district will relay this information to schools and encourage them to offer this practice as additional reasonable support to impact student achievement in a positive way.
- 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 email, school marquees, district and school websites, announcements, and flyers at the schools, through social media, and sent home with students to parents
- The FCSD and schools will provide, to the extent feasible, information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities in a format and language that parents can understand.
- The District will offer the Rosetta Stone Online Language Learning program to all parents of English Learners at no cost to learn English. This program will be supported in all schools with registered learners by a parent liaison and/or a bi-lingual parent liaison.



## ***Working with parents as equal partners in their child's education***

### **District Parent Resource Centers**

#### **College Park ES**

2075 Princeton Avenue, College Park 30337 ♦ 470-254-8040

#### **Mimosa ES**

1550 Warsaw Road, Roswell 30076 ♦ 470-254-4540

#### **Lake Forest ES**

5920 Sandy Springs Circle, Sandy Springs 30328 ♦ 470-254-8740

#### **Palmetto ES**

505 Carlton Road, Palmetto 30268 ♦ 470-254-6100



# Family engagement Evaluation



The FCSD will use the following methods each year to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the districtwide parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement 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 family engagement plans.
- Each school also regularly has parents and families evaluate each engagement activity and parent workshop to gauge the effectiveness of such programs. Based on the parent feedback from these evaluations, schools adjust accordingly.
- 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 and family engagement, as well as inform school and district leadership and stakeholders in the revision of this plan, and if necessary, revise this plan.
- The annual district parent survey will be used to identify barriers to greater participation in parent and family engagement with particular attention to certain subgroups as described below in **Accessibility**.

Accessibility	Upcoming Family Engagement Opportunities
<p>In carrying out the family engagement requirements, the district Title I Family Engagement Specialists will communicate and collaborate with Learning Communities, schools and the Student Support Services Department 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, family and community input meetings: Spring 2021; (minimum of 4 meetings: 2 north/2 south in addition to multiple other input opportunities for all stakeholders between March and May 2021) TBD based on social distancing</li> <li>• Annual parent surveys spring 2021</li> <li>• School parent input meetings February 2021 – August 2021</li> <li>• School parent and family engagement events and activities (check your school parent events calendars, compacts and Parent and Family Engagement Plans August 2020 – May 2021)</li> <li>• All District and school activities for the 2020-2021 school year are virtual unless otherwise announced.</li> </ul>

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan has been jointly developed with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, community members, school and district personnel at the parent input meetings in the spring of 2019. This plan was updated and adopted by the Fulton County School System Title I Department on September 30, 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020-2021 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2020.



Thank you, Fulton 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 Title I 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.

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### 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 HS *(circle)*

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Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Comments may be mailed or emailed to the following:**  
 Title I Department ♦ 6201 Powers Ferry Rd., Atlanta, GA 30339 ♦ 470-254-0200  
 FamilyEngagementSupport@fultonschools.org

