



Tattnall County Family Engagement Policy/Plan
2020-2021
Revised June 10, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Tattnall County receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Tattnall County School System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

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

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Tattnall County School System will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

Each spring all parents are given the opportunity to complete a survey that will provide input into the academic needs of students and provide information to guide parental involvement in the CLIP as well as the LEA and School Parental Involvement Policies. Parent surveys are completed at local PAC meetings, on paper, and by interview if necessary, at school activities where parents are present (soccer games, field day, Honors Day), and online. Parents have multiple opportunities to participate.

Parents also have the opportunity to provide input at the end of the Title IA meetings, PTA meetings, and open houses. Parents have the opportunity to list areas that they would like addressed in future meetings as well as the time and date of the scheduled meetings.

All spring surveys are compiled and presented at the District Comprehensive Needs Assessment Meeting. The CNA team (educators, parents, teachers, and stakeholders) look at the suggestions and update the District Parental Involvement Policy for the upcoming year. The revised District Parental Involvement Policy is placed on the district website for review and is also sent home by each Title I student by October 13, 2020.

Parents and community stakeholders are involved in the process of district and school review and improvement on an ongoing basis. Each school had a meeting to review and discuss needed updates and changes to the individual School Title I Plan, Parent-School Compact, and the School Parental Involvement Plan. The reviewed plans are sent home to all parents of Title I students in the fall of each year. Notices are provided to parents of the meetings by letter sent home by each Title I student, placed on outside school sign, and notices are placed in the local newspapers.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Tattnall County School System will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation

with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

The Curriculum Director and the Federal Programs Director provide a technical assistance meeting for the FEC and Academic Coaches each year. The Title I Parental Involvement template, School Improvement Plan Template, and the School- Parent Compact was emailed to all Academic Coaches and Principals to review. Academic Coaches were given information from GADOE webinars. A timeline was set for each school to turn in their CNA information and their School Improvement Plans. Ongoing assistance is provided by email and phone. Each plan will be evaluated by the Federal Programs Director and FEC according to the GADOE Schoolwide Program checklists. Plans needing revision will be returned to the Academic Coach at each school as needed during the year for corrections and/or revisions.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Tattnall County School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

All Title I parents are given a survey in the spring of each year. This survey is given on paper or online. Parents have multiple opportunities to complete the survey. The survey has questions about parental involvement and the content and effectiveness of the FE policy. Barriers to participation are discussed. Parents can suggest future topics for parental engagement meetings and to give input on the times and dates that they are scheduled.

Parents have the opportunity to provide written or oral comments at each Title I District or School meeting during the year.

The survey results are noted in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment plan for the district and each school. Results are also shared at the District Comprehensive Needs Assessment Meeting at which parents and stakeholders are present. Results are used to update the FE Policy for the following year. The FE policy is sent home by students by October 13, 2020.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Tattnall County School System will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Each spring all Title I parents have the opportunity to participate in written or online surveys that ask for input for parent and family engagement. This survey asks for suggestions of ways to spend the parent and family engagement funds. All parents also have a chance at the School Annual Title I School meetings and the District CNA Meeting to give input.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Tattnall County School System** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: ***Head Start, Kiddie Castle, Migrant, ESOL*** that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Invitations to parent meetings in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. Notice of meetings is placed in local newspapers and on school and district websites, and on outdoor signs at each school. Students and parents in Head Start and Kiddie Castle (migrant prek) are given the opportunity to visit the elementary schools in which their children will be enrolling. Opportunities are given for the students to complete an on-site visit to the prek classroom for shadowing. Migrant parents are given information on prek enrollment procedures and dates at the spring migrant PAC meeting. The Tattnall Migrant Program coordinates services and provides the Exito Program for migrant three and four year olds who do not attend Kiddie Castle or Prek programs. A spring parent meeting is held for ESOL and Migrant parents to discuss needs specific to those learners.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Tattnall County School System** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

Each school holds its yearly Title I Annual Meetings to review the requirements of Title I, Part A. Each school also holds additional meetings in which the use of PowerSchool to monitor student's assignments and grades is discussed. Parents are able to suggest areas of needed training for parent meetings on the spring surveys.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Tattnall County School System will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

Meetings with teachers and instructional staff are held during each nine weeks period to help educate our staff on public and parent relations and the importance of this type of interaction. These meetings are held during preplanning, regularly scheduled faculty/staff meetings, and ongoing grade level and professional learning community meetings. The meetings are standardized across the county – First nine weeks topic – Value and Utility of Contribution of Parents; Second nine weeks topic – How to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; Third nine weeks topic – Implement and coordinate Parent Programs; Fourth Nine weeks topic- Build ties between parents and schools. The handouts and schedules for these meetings are emailed to the academic coaches at the beginning of the year.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A program.

This policy was adopted by the Tattnall County School System on June 10, 2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 13, 2020.