



FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

2021-2022



COBB COUNTY
SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHAT IS FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Decades of research strongly suggest that families have a significant influence on their child's achievement in school and throughout life. Family engagement in Cobb means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. We believe...

- ◆ *successful schools are a foundation of community stability, growth, and prosperity.*
- ◆ *family and community engagement is critical to student and district success.*
- ◆ *in a constant and purposeful focus on what is best for students.*
- ◆ *creativity and innovation are encouraged and embraced by all stakeholders.*
- ◆ *in cultivating a positive environment where students are provided pathways for success.*



JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Cobb County School District (CCSD) supports and solicits family engagement of children being served in activities funded by Title I. This is an essential component for increasing student achievement and ensuring continued success. In support of strengthening student academic achievement, CCSD has developed this engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for family and community engagement. The policy includes guided strategies and resources that strengthen school-parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This policy was developed jointly with the input of CCSD and Title I stakeholders. Parent comments and survey results can be located on the CCSD Title I Website at www.cobbk12.org under the Teaching and Learning Department tab. All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement policy for the 2021-2022 school year during input opportunities. Throughout the course of the year, parents work to share their ideas and provide suggestions to help the district, school, and students to reach our students' academic achievement goals. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year.



STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS

In the fall, the Title I Supervisor will provide guidance and professional development to schools on effective family engagement activities, school family engagement plans, and school-family compact. The training will also include building parent capacity that will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. Ongoing technical assistance and Georgia Department of Education Family-School Partnership Program webinars will ensure local school staff family engagement requirements are being satisfied and those family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district's Title I Supervisor to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

CCSD will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY22 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Furthermore, CCSD 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 I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILY CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents and family members 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 participate in opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students reach our student academic achievement goals.

BUILDING CAPACITY

The CCSD will build the schools' and families' capacity for strong family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. The goal of building the capacity of our families is to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through various districtwide activities and programs.

Additionally, FACE cohort members will receive training and support for the implementation of the following evidence-based family engagement models that build partnerships with parents:

- Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) is being implemented at Argyle, City View, Clarkdale, Hendricks, Powder Springs Elementary Schools, Lindley Sixth Grade Academy, and Lindley Middle School
- Learning Launch Math and Science Challenge is being implemented at Riverside Elementary and Garrett Middle Schools.
- The Family Dinner Project (TFDP) by Harvard is being implemented at Birney, Clay-Harmony Leland, Hollydale Elementary, Smitha Middle, and Devereux Ackerman Academy
- Family Mentorship & Partnership Network (FMPN) is being implemented at Fair Oaks, Sanders, and Smyrna Elementary Schools.

Each model focuses on instructional goals matched to student needs with the support of teachers, families, and community partners.

OF PARENTS

The CCSD will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to families in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I programs. District Family Engagement Staff will support the implementation of evidence-based model approaches to connect student's academic achievement to family and community engagement. The CCSD webpage provides access to resources for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes and family engagement events will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I district and school's website.

The CCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state-funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. Elementary schools host kindergarten articulation days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. Middle and high schools will host opportunities that support the transition of students from elementary to middle, middle to high and high to post-secondary education. The CCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

OF SCHOOL STAFF

To ensure that information related to the district, school, parent programs, EngageONE meetings, and schoolwide activities are available to all parents, each school with a Title I program 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' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize the school communication system, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents. Families, along with District and school staff, will participate in the Building Staff Capacity Training. The training is held quarterly and will focus on building powerful partnerships between the home and school. Additionally, FACE cohort members will receive training for the implementation of and evidence-based interventions to support the district-wide approach to build parent capacity.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Title I Supervisor will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Teaching & Learning and Teaching & Learning Support and Specialized 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.



FEDERAL PROGRAMS STATE OF THE DISTRICT OPPORTUNITIES

**Survey October 2021 &
Web Meeting March 29th, 2022**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Cobb County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2022-23 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent utilizing the district communication system, district websites, and local news media.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**August-October 2021 &
March-April 2022**

Each school with a Title I Program will provide parents, families, teachers, and community stakeholders with multiple opportunities to have meaningful input into the development of family engagement activities/programs offered this year. Each occasion will gather input regarding strategies implemented in the schoolwide plan, school-family engagement policy, and family engagement budget. Schools may choose to host any combination of the following:

- **Focus Group:** small groups of parents and family members come together in a confidential setting for structured evaluation to gather data on parent and family engagement policy and effective programs.

- **Surveys:** which can be administered in multiple ways, are the commonly used method for collecting stakeholder feedback in an anonymous format about parent and family engagement policy and programs.
- **Open Discussion Forum:** large groups of parents and families who provide feedback on parent and family engagement policies and programs.

Each school will send invitations and announcements home utilizing the school communication system, notifying families of the method of input, the location/online platform application, date, and time as applicable to the process of gathering input.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.academics.cobbk12.org/Title1 to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.

Mark Your Calendars

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES
[Register through CTLS Parent]

School Improvement Opportunities
August – October 2021
March – April 2022
Local school site

District Annual Parent Survey
October 2021- May 2022

Federal Programs State of the District
March 29th, 2022
Location(s) To Be Determined

FOR SCHOOLS

Building Staff Capacity Training: Powerful Partnerships
September 17th, 2021
December 10th, 2021
February 11th, 2022
April 29th, 2022

Local school site or virtual event

Principal and Support Staff Training
Program Meetings: August – September 2021
Title I Webinar Series: March – June 2022

Instructional Support Center or virtual event

FACE Cohort Team Meetings
August 10th, 2021
November 11th, 2021
February 8th, 2022
May 10th, 2022

Instructional Support Center or virtual event

Bookkeeper Training
October 2021

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, the CCSD 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 programs through an annual parent survey, the School Improvement Forums, and the Evidence-based/Logic Model Methodology.

Beginning in April, each school with a Title I program will begin to compile and analyze feedback received throughout the year to evaluate program needs.

The CCSD will use the findings from these resources to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

ADOPTION

CCSD Title I Family and Community Engagement Policy was jointly reviewed and revised by parents of participating children on or before August 15, 2021 and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2021.

Thank you,



**Cobb County School District
Federal Programs Director**



CONTACT

**Natalie Hutchins
Supervisor, Title I Program
Cobb County School District Title I Office
Instructional Support Center
514 Glover Street
Marietta, GA 30060
(770) 437-5932 Fax (678) 503-0180**