

# Russell Elementary School

## *Family-School Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success*

*2023–2024 School Year*

*Dr. Tammy Watson, Principal  
Cobb County School District*

*3920 South Hurt Road  
(770) 437-5937*

<https://www.cobbk12.org/russell>

*Revised May 19, 2023*

## **Russell Elementary School Academic Goals**

### **Goal #1**

The percentage of students (2<sup>nd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) scoring proficient or advanced on the Reading Inventory (RI) will increase 27% (92 students) to 35% (123 students) from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024.

### **Goal #2**

The percentage of students (1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup>) scoring proficient or advanced on the Math Inventory (MI) will increase by 35% (157 students) to 45% (204 students) from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024.

### **Goal #3**

The percentage of 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students scoring proficient or advanced on the Science Interims and Milestone will increase from 20% (21 students) to 35% (33 students) from Fall 2023 to Spring 2024.

### **Goal #4**

The percentage of discipline referrals related to physical aggression will decrease among K-5 students by 17% (28 students) as measured by the Comprehensive Discipline Summary from Fall 2023 to Spring of 2024.

# School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

## **What is it?**

This is a plan that describes how Russell Elementary School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Russell Elementary values the contributions and involvement of families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Russell Elementary will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.



## **Jointly Developed**

Russell Elementary School invites all parents to complete the Fall school improvement input survey/evaluation to provide suggestions on the school's Title I program. All parents are also invited to attend the Spring school improvement input meeting to revise this parental involvement policy, our school-parent compact, building staff capacity professional learning topics, and the parental involvement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. The plan is posted on our school Web site for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey that is posted online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of the 1% reservation of funds for parental involvement. Parents can also give feedback during any parent meetings and activities during the school year.

## **Who is it for?**

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their parents and families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy. Russell Elementary School will provide full opportunity for the participation of Neglected and Delinquent proxy parents, parents and families with limited English, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

## **Where is it available?**

Every family will receive the plan during Parent-Teacher Conference week and through CTLSParent after conference week. It is also available on the school website.. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center. We will gladly mail the plan to you upon request.

## **What is Title I?**

Russell Elementary School is identified as a school having a Schoolwide Title I program as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards which reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement policy.

## 2023-2024 Cobb County Schools District Goals

- Increase student performance in all core content areas by 2% annually as measured by achievement data.
- CCSD will increase the participation rate of families and communities engaging in services/programs by 10% as measured by CTLS Parent data, survey results & web view module.
- By 2023, we will reorganize the PL framework to meet the needs of all schools to ensure alignment with Superintendent Priorities as measured by PL opportunities, surveys, and student achievement.
- By the end of the 2025 school year every school will have identified practices and resources that support student success as measured by student academic, perception or discipline data.

## Family-School Compacts

As part of this plan, Russell Elementary School and our families will develop a family-school compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the School Improvement forum. The family-school compacts are distributed during Parent-Teacher Conference week October 17-20, 2023. Copies are also available throughout the year on the website and in the parent resource room.

## Let's Get Together!

Russell Elementary School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and community to improve student academic achievement. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) activities will be held at various times to provide opportunities for all families to participate. If you are unable to attend and would like meeting information, please contact Russell Elementary.



### **Annual Title I Meeting- September 19, 2023 – 9:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m. (Virtual)**

We invite you to an evening of learning about our Title I program, including the parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compacts, parents' rights under Title I, highlights of the school improvement plan, and the 1% reservation of funds for family engagement. Additionally, you'll receive a description of our school's curriculum and the assessments used to monitor student progress.

### **Parent-Teacher Conferences – October 17-20, 2023**

Receive updates on your child's progress in class and instructional strategies to support learning at home during Conference Week. Parents may always request conferences with their child's teacher as needed.

### **Fall School Improvement Input Survey- October 23, 2023**

Russell Elementary School will send the Title I Survey / Evaluation home through CTLSParent. Parents are asked to provide valuable feedback regarding the school, current and future family and community engagement activities, and programs.

### **Spring School Improvement Input Forum- March 4, 2024**

Parents and educators review and discuss Russell Elementary School Title I program, future parent activities, school-family compact and policy, family engagement budget, and staff training.

### **Incoming Kindergarteners and New Students Parent Meeting- March 25, 2024**

Families will be introduced to expectations and learning opportunities offered in elementary school.

### **Kindergarten Orientation Camp – July 17-20, 2023**

Upcoming kindergarten students will be provided the opportunity to be exposed to kindergarten standards, Schoolwide Expectations and meet kindergarten teachers.

### **Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent Meeting- May 2024**

Families are introduced to expectations and learning opportunities offered in middle school.

### **Rising 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Student Orientation – May 2024**

Fifth-grade students will be provided an opportunity to meet the middle school counselors who will share important information about middle school and visit the middle school setting.

## Parent Resource Center (Room 102)

**Hours: Tuesday-Thursday (9:00am – 1:00 pm)**

Visit the Parent Resource Center (PRC) to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore CTLS Learn, CTLS Parent, and educational resources.

## Parental Involvement

Russell Elementary School believes that parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.

## Parental Involvement Matters

Russell Elementary School is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or email us if you need assistance with childcare or transportation to participate in our programs.

Mrs. Yajaira Cotto  
(770) 437-5937

[Yajaira.Cotto@cobbk12.org](mailto:Yajaira.Cotto@cobbk12.org)

## One Team, One Goal, Student Success

Russell Elementary School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen student academic performance and reach our school goals. We will:



- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish, on the school website, in CTLSParent, and grade-level newsletters.
- ✓ Provide training each semester for staff during their planning periods on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement.
- ✓ Partner with our feeder schools by conducting joint meetings and events for parents and sending school information about parent engagement activities to help prepare parents and their students for school transitions.
- ✓ Share information in English and Spanish on the school website, CTLSParent, and Russell's Facebook and Instagram Page for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through CTLSParent, school website, social media, school marquee, etc.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant training and presentations to assist parents in supporting learning at home, utilize district and school programs, and receive pertinent information on CTLSParent and ParentVue.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their students to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Use our Parent Facilitators, Education Partners, and Principal Advisory Council to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parental involvement policy.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents at all events and offer a variety of surveys throughout the school year to respond to parents' input regarding parental involvement activities and parental needs.
- ✓ Provide monthly reading, math, and writing strategies in grade-level newsletters.

## Parental Involvement Standards

Russell Elementary School and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

## Principal Advisory Council

The purpose of the Principal Advisory Council is to bring together parents, community members, and school staff to create a better understanding of and mutual respect for each other's concerns and share ideas for school improvement.

The Principal Advisory Council meets three times per school year. Along with the principal, council members include:

- Two staff members (one being the current Teacher of the Year).
- Two parents (one being the current PTSA president).
- Two members of the community (one being a Partner in Education representative).
- High Schools *only* should include the president of the student government association or the senior class president.

If you would like to share your ideas and perspective with the Principal Advisory Council please contact:

Dr. Tammy Watson  
Tammy.Watson@cobbk12.org

## Parent Involvement Opportunities

- I am interested in participating on the Principal Advisory Council.
- I am interested in volunteering in the parent resource room.
- I am interested in volunteering in the Russell Learning Commons.
- I am interested in volunteering with PTA and working on Russell Schoolwide Events.
- I am interested in volunteering to assist with car riders and bus riders in the morning
- I am interested in reading to my students class and other classes.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To return this form via email to Yajaira.Cotto@cobbk12.org

## Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Suggestions, Compliments, Concerns:

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