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...

A) successful schools are a foundation of community stability, growth, and prosperity;

B) family and community engagement is critical to student and district success;

C) in a constant and purposeful focus on what is best for students;

D) creativity and innovation are encouraged and embraced by all stakeholders; and

E) in cultivating a positive environment where students are provided pathways for success.
JOINTLY DEVELOPED

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 parent involvement policy that establishes the district’s expectations for parental involvement. 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 2018-2019 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 SCHOOL

In the fall, the Title I Parental Involvement Staff will provide guidance and professional development to schools on effective family engagement activities, school parental involvement plans, and school-parent compact. The training will also include building parent capacity that will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. Ongoing Tuesday Talks and Georgia Department of Education Family-School Partnership Program webinars will ensure local school staff parental involvement 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 Parental Involvement Staff to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

CCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY19 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the Elementary 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 attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.
State of the District Meeting (Federal Programs)
~ March 12, 2019; Webinar ~ June 2019

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 2019-2020 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

School Improvement Forums
~ August-September, 2018 and April-May, 2019

During this time, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school’s parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home and email or text parents notifying them of the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

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

Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the CCSD website.
BUILDING CAPACITY

The CCSD will build the schools’ and parents’ 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 the following districtwide activities and programs such as Learning Launch Challenge and EngageONE. The two programs are evidence-based family engagement models that build partnerships with parents. Each 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 parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student’s learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I Program and Learning Launch Challenge. 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 Learning Launch Challenge events will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I district and school’s website.

Cobb County School District’s Superintendent has established a districtwide Advisory Council to include Principals, Teachers, and a Business and Community Committee comprised of representatives from Title I and non-Title I schools to bring perspective, ideas, and voice to impactful issues within the District.

The CCSD has established ongoing input opportunities for parents to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement. The input is purposed to coordinate the sustainability and growth of family engagement in the district. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to participate. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting recordings of input opportunities and other district meetings on the website and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

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. In the spring, the elementary schools will host kindergarten articulation days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. While middle and high schools will host transitions to transition grades and 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, Learning Launch Challenge events, and activities are available to all parents, each Title I school 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 school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Teaching & Learning, Teaching & Learning and Support & Specialized Services, and ESOL/Title III 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.
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 schools through an annual parent survey, the School Improvement Forums, and the Evidence-based/Logic Model Methodology.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey via email and post the survey on district and school websites for parents to complete.

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.

ADOPPTION

CCSD Title I Family and Community Engagement Policy was jointly reviewed and revised by parents of participating children on March 13, 2018 and July 19, 2018 and will be in effect for the 2018-2019 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, 2018.

CONTACT

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Thank you,

Tiffany Honoré
Cobb County School District
Federal Programs Director
MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR SCHOOLS

Building Staff Capacity Training
(Completion Dates)
September 21, 2018
December 21, 2018
March 29, 2019
May 24, 2019
Local school site

Principal and Support Staff Training
August 2018
March 2019
June 2019
Rose Garden Educational Center

Parent Facilitator Meetings
Second Tuesday: August, November,
February, and May
Rose Garden Educational Center

Family Engagement Mentor Meetings
Second Tuesday of every month
Rose Garden Educational Center

FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

School Improvement Forum
August – October 2018
March – April 2019
Local school site

State of the School
August – September 2018
Local school Site

State of the District (Federal Programs)
March 12, 2019
Multiple locations

June 2019
Webinar

Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the CCSD website.