

## **Title I School, Family, and Community Involvement Policy**

### **COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

FY 2009-2010

The Cobb County School District (CCSD) supports and solicits family involvement of children being served in activities funded by Title I. This is an essential component for increasing student achievement and ensuring continued success. “Over 30 years of research has proven beyond dispute the positive connection between parent and student success. Effectively engaging parents and families in the education of their children have the potential to be far more transformational than any other type of educational reform.” (p.5, National PTA, 1997).

*The No Child Left Behind Act has strengthened and expanded the requirements for involving the families of Title I students. The CCSD Involvement Policy is the foundation of the partnership. This policy specifically addresses the full range of family and student needs that impact learning.*

#### **General Expectations**

- A.** Cobb County School District (CCSD) will disseminate to parents, schools, and the public, information on schools identified for school improvement, corrective action or restructuring, as well as, an annual report card with collective information, including student achievement, graduation rates, performance of the CCSD and teacher qualification. This information is made available on the district’s website [www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org), the Office of Accountability, the local school level (School Strategic Plans and school newsletters), and the local newspaper.
- B.** CCSD will reserve one percent of the allocation for parent involvement to promote family literacy and parenting skills; and distribute ninety-five percent of this reserve fund to serve schools.
- C.** CCSD district-wide parent advisory council, named Title I Parent Action Team (T-PAT), will meet annually to jointly develop and review the district’s Title I Parent Involvement Policy. T-PAT members are invited to participate by the local school principal and staff. The review process will include decisions on how funds are allotted for parental involvement activities; the effectiveness of the policy to increase the participation of parents; the identification of barriers for parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English and literacy proficiency; and, of any racial or ethnic minority. Evaluation findings for the review process are derived from the district level and school surveys. The written policy is sent to the local school for distribution and is posted on the district’s Title I website.
- D.** CCSD Title I will inform parents of participating students their right to request the professional qualifications of the student’s classroom teachers and paraprofessionals providing services to the child. A form letter will be sent to each local school with this information. The information will be placed on school letterhead and sent to the parents. The information is also posted on the district’s Title I website.

- E. CCSD Title I will collaborate with the CCSD International Welcome Center (IWC) to limit barriers and implement effective outreach to inform parents of limited English proficient children on how to be involved in their children’s education. IWC will translate and interpret “in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practical, in a language the parents can understand,” all mandatory reports and information. At this time CCSD does not have the following programs: Head Start, Even Start, Reading First, Parents as Teachers Program, and Home Instruction for Preschool Youngsters.
- F. The CCSD Title I Consultant will offer technical assistance to its schools in training school staff and parents, in planning and implementing effective involvement programs, to improve student academic achievement and school performance. Technical assistance will be provided by the Title I Consultant to all schools in the process of involving parents to develop a written parental involvement policy and a school-parent compact. The Title I Consultant will assist each school in the development of parent resource centers by purchasing materials and providing workshops that focus on child development and child rearing issues. The CCSD Title I Consultant will collaborate with other personnel such as Title I Homeless Liaisons, Special Education Parent Facilitator, Georgia Chapter PTA, Georgia Department of Education Parent Involvement Program Specialist, Parent Involvement Resource Center (PIRC) State Liaison, and other Title school districts within the Atlanta Metro area, to integrate parent involvement strategies and programs.
- G. The CCSD Title I is a district member of the National Network of Partnership Schools. The model was adopted and implemented in 17 of our schools as well. The Title I Consultant meets with the schools to assist in the development of Parent Action Teams, as well as, planning for parent activities at the local level.

### **Implementation Efforts**

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Cobb County School District (CCSD) Title I will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that (A) by supporting parents to play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning; (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school; (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 1118 of the ESEA.*

CCSD Title I and all schools through various, meetings, trainings and workshops shall:

- Provide assistance to parents of participating Title I children in understanding such topics as the National Education Goals, the state’s academic content and achievement standards, the state and local assessments being used, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor their children’s progress and work with educators to improve their achievement.

- Provide ways parents can be a part of a parent action team in order to participate in decisions related to the education of their children.
- Provide assistance to coordinate necessary literacy and technology training to help parents work with their children.
- Provide assistance to inform the parents of participating students the components of a school wide or a targeted assistance school program.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation, translation, and childcare costs; and, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parental involvement activities.
- Develop a transition between preschool to kindergarten, elementary school to middle school, and middle school to secondary school.
- Provide an opportunity for parents to submit unsatisfactory comments regarding district and the local school plan and parent policy.
- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

The Parent Involvement Policy of the Cobb County Schools and each participating school is reviewed annually for its effectiveness in increasing family participation and identifying barriers to participation such as: low income, limited literacy, disabilities, language, or other cultural or ethnic considerations. The review findings will be used to improve parent policies and design school improvement initiatives at local sites.

**CCSD Title I Parent Action Team Members are as follows:**

Maria Gonzalez	Parent Campbell Middle School
Odie Fletes	Parent Lindley 6 <sup>th</sup> Grade Academy
Zaida Ramirez	Parent Campbell Middle School
Carlos Castaneda	Parent Liaison Griffin Middle School
Annette Danger-field	Parent Liaison Riverside Primary Elementary
Luz Thompson	Parent Liaison Campbell Middle School
Julie Hollis	GA PIRC
Carol Fey	Executive Director of Communities in Schools of Marietta and Cobb
Dr. Fran White	Title I Consultant Parental Involvement
Constance Carter	Title I Supervisor