



# **Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement**

Amelia L. Johnson High School  
Marengo County Board of Education

Mr. Lepolean Peterson  
PO Box 67  
Thomaston, AL 36783

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement.....	2

## Introduction

All Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools must complete the following diagnostics: the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic, the Parent Involvement Diagnostic, the Coordination of Resource/Comprehensive Budget Diagnostic, and EITHER the Title I Targeted Assistance Diagnostic OR the Title I Schoolwide Diagnostic. Parent Survey must be done annually, but it can be done electronically or by paper.

## **Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement**

**1. Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved.**

During the first quarter of the school year, a meeting will be held at the school to inform parents that Amelia Love Johnson High School is a school wide Title I school. Parents will be informed about this meeting through our school cast system and flyers. The district Federal Programs Director will conduct the meeting to inform parents of all Title I requirements and their right to be involved. Topics to be discussed are set-asides, parents right to know, highly qualified teachers and all other Title I requirements.

**2. Describe: 1) How there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered; 2) How parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school.**

Because of the small size and rural location of the school, all stakeholders agree that only one Title I parent meeting is necessary. The district also conducts a system wide Title I meeting during the day at the central office for parents' convenience. Parents will be informed of their rights to be involved in the planning, reviewing and improvement of all Title I Programs and Plans. Pamphlets will be distributed to all parents to ensure that all parents will be aware of the opportunity to be involved. Even though Parental Involvement set asides are not required for our district because of the amount of Title I funds we receive, the district does set aside these funds to purchase a communication system that principals and others use to send announcements and information to all parents. Parents are also involved in the district Advisory Committee which meets at the central office. All plans such as Title I, EL, Parental Involvement are reviewed at this time.

**3. Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children.**

Title I programs available are listed on the district website for parents to view. Parents are informed of curriculum decisions and academic assessments, as well as achievement expectations, through progress reports, report cards, letters, announcements during PTA meetings, and School Cast. Parents are represented regularly during leadership team and school improvement meetings. Parents are also represented on district Advisory committees. When necessary, communication is translated to the student's home language through the use of websites such as TransAct.

**4. Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated).**

## Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

Amelia L. Johnson High School

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The compacts are evaluated and issued yearly. The school-parent compact is issued yearly for student and parent signatures and kept on file in the homeroom teacher's classroom. During conferences, the compacts are used to remind and clarify the expectations of students and parents in reference to academic achievement and behavior. The parents share an equal role in the educational outcomes and goals of their children, and the school staff makes sure their instruction is unified through development and implementation of pacing guides based on College and Career Ready Standards. The School-Parent compact is reviewed and adjustments are made accordingly through parent/teacher conferences and parent visitation in the classroom. An example of a shared responsibility includes: Teachers will provide quality instruction based on College and Career Ready Standards. Parents agree to monitor their children's assignments and assist in any homework assigned. Students agree to complete their homework daily, to the best of their ability. This compact is updated each school year during a parental involvement meeting with representatives from all stakeholder groups participating.

### **5. Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan.**

Parents are invited to participate in developing the Continuous Improvement Plan. This plan will be posted on the school's website. If parents are not satisfied or have questions, they may submit comments through email to the principal or to the district Federal Programs Director or by contacting the school or the Board of Education. Parents are given the opportunity to offer suggestions and deliver comments through the suggestion box, located in the office. Parents may also schedule meetings with the principal and/or leadership team to discuss any concerns. The principal will contact the LEA Federal Programs Director to inform her of these complaints. Additionally, parental members of the Continuous Improvement Plan team may represent the parental population in making any necessary changes during leadership team meetings. Parents are educated on these procedures during the annual Title I Parent Meeting conducted by our district Federal Programs Director.

### **6a. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall provide training for parents of participating children in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. (Describe)**

Parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children through parent workshops that address assessment, data, and academic achievement. As a result of these workshops, parents should become liaisons between the school and their students to ensure academic success and monitor their children's progress. Parents are also encouraged to participate and become equal partners in educating their children during the annual Title I Parent Meeting. The district Federal Programs Director conducts these meetings to inform parents of their rights and responsibilities according to Title I requirements.

## Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

Amelia L. Johnson High School

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**6b. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (Describe)**

Parents will be provided with the necessary resources to monitor their children's progress. These resources may also be located at the school office or counselor's office for parents to collect when needed. During parent workshops, training on using the necessary technology will also be provided. The school has held sessions facilitated by AMSTI and other specialists for the purpose of educating parents about the educational programs and ways to help their children. A home school connection letter will be sent out to provide information involving Amelia Love Johnson High School.

**6c. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, 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 the school. (Describe)**

School employees will participate in professional development to improve communicate with parents. As a result of this training, teachers are implementing a plan to contact parents to inform them of something positive about their child each month. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer at the school and to visit classroom. The district also provides professional development on how to reach out to parents to encourage them to become equal partners.

**6d. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.(Describe)**

A parent resource center will be located in the hall of the main school building, and will include helpful pamphlets and magazines to cover common issues faced by students and parents, such as test-taking tips, immunization, health tips, homework tips and math facts. Parents

## Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement

Amelia L. Johnson High School

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will be encouraged to attend and participate in assemblies which are held regularly. The following sessions are planned to involve parents in school activities: Financial Literacy, Health and Nutrition, and Literacy Fair.

**6e. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (Describe)**

Parents will be informed of parent programs and meetings through School Cast, school memos, and notification on the When needed, forms, letters and other communication will be translated to the home language of a student through the use of websites such as TransAct and Google Translator.

**6f. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)**

Amelia Love Johnson High School has an open door policy for suggestions. There is a suggestion box in the main office building. Parents are encouraged to make suggestions about the school and ways to improve it.

**7. Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students; including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.**

School reports and information will be provided in a format that the parents can understand at the request of the parent. Parents will be informed of parent programs and meetings through School Cast, school memos, and notification on the school website. Amelia Love Johnson will use websites such as TransAct that will translate forms and documents for ELL parents.