

Pierce County School District Parental Involvement Plan

2016-17 School Year
Plan Revised April 12, 2016

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What is Parental Involvement?

Parental involvement means the participation of parents/families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school related activities ensuring that:

- ❖ Parents play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning.
- ❖ Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- ❖ 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.
- ❖ Other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA are carried out.



The focus for our district will be to increase stakeholder (students, parents, community) understanding, trust, and support of the school system.

Parental Involvement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Pierce County School District (PCSD) has developed this parental involvement plan that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe PCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school

more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive parental involvement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school parent involvement plans, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1118, the PCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118 (b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.

Jointly Developed

Throughout the school year, each school asks parents for feedback on the LEA Parental Involvement (PI) Plan. During the annual District Parent Advisory Council meeting in February, parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parental involvement plan for the 2016-2017 school year. The district sent the information to the local newspaper and posted it on the district and school websites informing parents about the meeting. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used a Parent Café meeting to review the district parental involvement plan. Each school sent a flyer home to all parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the meeting was also posted on the school websites and in the local newspaper.

Upon final revision, the District Parental Involvement Plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time to the District Parent Involvement Coordinator or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All feedback received was included in the planning process for the school year.

The District Parental Involvement Plan is posted on district and school web-sites, distributed during the annual Title I school parent meetings during the school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.



Strengthening Our School

The District Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' PICs to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district PIC and/or the Director of Student Achievement will work with principals and school PICs in the spring to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year and begin planning for the upcoming year.

Reservation of Funds

The Pierce County School District will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY17 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Furthermore, the PCSD will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement programs and activities.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will hold Parent Cafés for parents and faculty to provide suggestions on how these parental involvement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school level. Comments and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the parental involvement budget.

Opportunities for Parent/Family Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are revised each year. Since PCSD is a Title I school system, all parents are invited to participate in any of the various meeting opportunities provided to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach academic achievement goals established for the school year.

District Parent Advisory Council Meeting ~ February 2017

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Pierce County School District as well as review and provide input into the District Parental Involvement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2016-17 school year. This review includes disaggregated test data, accountability data, and parent involvement information. Each Title I school will post a flyer in the school office. The district will communicate information regarding this meeting on the websites of the schools and district as well as in the local newspaper.

Parent Cafés

Each Title I school will host Parent Café meetings to focus on what matters. During the Parent Cafés we will have authentic conversations to help build relationships and improve students' academic achievements. Also, the Parent Cafés will offer decision making opportunities. Parents will be invited to assist in revising elements of this district parent involvement plan, our schools' parent involvement plans, school/parent compacts, schoolwide plans, parent activities, and the parent involvement budget. Invitations regarding the Parent Cafés will be sent to all parents notifying them of the date and time. In addition, the information will be available on the schools' websites, and in the local newspaper.

Parent Involvement Survey

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parental involvement programs may also be provided through the annual parent involvement survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parental involvement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments. Flyers telling about the surveys are sent to all parents, and are posted at each school's front office. Notices are sent to the local newspaper. Links to access the electronic versions of the surveys are available on the school websites. These surveys are available in English and Spanish.

Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access parental involvement information from the Pierce County School District Web site.



Unable to attend any of these meetings, please visit the district website at www.pierce.k12.ga.us to review the documents. Comments/input may be sent to the district PIC at ameadows@pierce.k12.ga.us.

Building School and Parent Capacity

The Pierce County School District (PCSD) will build school and parent capacity for strong parental involvement. To support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community which focuses on improving student academic achievement, the following district wide activities and programs will be implemented:

The Pierce County School District will work with 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. The District PIC will work with each school to provide training for parents to gain knowledge about the Georgia Standards of Excellence and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes will be posted on the school website; flyers posted at the school; in the local newspaper; notices sent home; as well as shared in many schools' newsletters.

The Pierce County School District will also provide a page on the district website that will contain resources and materials, including articles and study guides, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish (to the extent feasible). Schools provide support to parents to assist them with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources. In addition, the PCSD offers a "Virtual" Pierce County Family Resource Room. Our "Virtual" Family Resource Room has valuable activities for Pre-K through 12th grades including instructional videos from Pierce County teachers! (www.pinterest.com/pcresourceroom)

The Pierce County School District will coordinate and integrate the district's parental involvement programs with the Head Start program, Lollipop Pre-K program, and the lottery-funded Pre-K program within the district. In the spring, the elementary schools will host days and times so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The District will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will post meeting days/times in their front office as well as send home information about upcoming programs/activities. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings (to the extent feasible). Also, information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent feasible. The district will also utilize the automated phone system, school websites, local newspaper, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

The Pierce County School District will provide information to principals in order to increase their awareness on the importance of parents in the educational setting. The school PICs will attend training throughout the school year to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district PIC will also provide technical assistance to each Title I school to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. The PCSD will host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on best practices and ideas of how to effectively reach out to parents in a meaningful and productive manner.

The Pierce County School District has established a district wide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. The district will invite community and business partners to serve on this council. Their collaboration and participation will be most valuable in building school and parent capacity.

Parental Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the Pierce County School District will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual district parent survey and the Parent Cafés.

Each Title I school will send home a flyer explaining how to access our parent involvement survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs. Links to these surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites. Paper copies are

available at each school's front office. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the Parent Cafés to facilitate group discussions addressing the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and design strategies for more effective parental involvement.

The Pierce County School District will use the findings from the Parent Cafés, schools' suggestion boxes, and survey results to design strategies to improve effective parental involvement, remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise its parental involvement plans.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements established by Section 1118 (e) of the ESEA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Director of Student Services and the Director of Federal Programs 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.

Adoption

This District Parental Involvement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school and district personnel at the annual District Parent Advisory Council meeting. This plan was reviewed and revised by the Pierce County School District on March 30, 2016 and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2016.

