

Pierce County School District Family Involvement Plan
2012-2013
Revised March 29, 2012

1. The **Pierce County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the Elementary & Secondary Education Act (ESEA):
 - The Local Educational Agency (LEA) parent involvement plan and individual school plans are distributed in each school's student handbook/agenda at the beginning of each school year or upon enrollment in Pierce County schools, are posted on the District Website and are available in the Family Resource Center.
 - The District Parent Advisory Council along with all parents will develop an LEA Family Involvement plan which encourages family participation in all schools.
 - Surveys are distributed in the spring to all parents/guardians/families of students in the district. These surveys are distributed in English and Spanish.

2. The **Pierce County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - The district parent advisory council, school parent involvement committees, and school council members from all schools including an invitation to all parents meet annually in a joint session to review the district wide plan. This review includes disaggregated test data, adequate yearly progress status, and parent involvement information.
 - Surveys are distributed in the spring to all parents of students in the district. These surveys are distributed in English and Spanish. Suggestions or recommendations are taken into consideration as the plan is being developed.
 - Yearly Invitations to Participate meetings with parents are held at all schools for the purpose of reviewing the Family Involvement Policy/Plan. Parent suggestions are considered in completing and revising the plan.
 - In addition, opportunities will be provided for parents to meet with school personnel to formulate suggestions, participate in discussions and decisions relating to the education of their children.

3. The **Pierce County School District** will reserve one percent of LEA allocation for parent involvement, including promoting family literacy skills and distribute ninety-five percent of this reserve fund to served schools.

4. The **Pierce County School District** will involve parents in the decision regarding how funds are allotted for parental involvement activities.
 - All parents at the Annual Title I Meeting, the district parent advisory council, school parent involvement committees, and school council members from all schools at their meetings give suggestions on how parent involvement funds are spent.

5. The **Pierce County School District** will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist schools in planning and implementing an effective parental involvement program:
 - The district parent involvement coordinator assists schools in revising school compacts and plans.
 - The district parent involvement coordinator assists in the coordination of parent involvement activities.
 - The district parent involvement coordinator as well as school counselors provide mentor training for parents and community partners to participate in mentoring/volunteering activities at the school level.
 - The district parent involvement coordinator provides educational programs and materials for families.
 - The district parent involvement coordinator along with school personnel inform parents of the Georgia Department of Education (Ga DOE) website, Georgia Parent Information and Resource Center (PIRC), where parents get assistance with educational issues and the district Parent Involvement web link, <http://piercecouny.schoolinsites.com>.

6. The **Pierce County School District** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Migrant, Homeless, and the State-run preschool program by:
 - The district parent involvement coordinator partners with Head Start, Pre-K, Special Education, Babies Can't Wait and Migrant to provide parent involvement activities.
 - Providing an orientation for preschool parents and children who will be transitioning to the elementary schools.
 - Providing parents of preschool children with materials such as books and activities to assist their child in making the transition to the elementary school more successful.

7. The **Pierce County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan in increasing the participation of parents as well as, identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority).
 - The district parent advisory council and school parent involvement committees meet annually to review the district-wide plan for the effectiveness of parental participation by all parents.
 - Surveys are distributed in the spring to all parents of students in the district. These surveys are distributed in both English and Spanish. If barriers to participate are identified, new strategies or procedures will be revised as needed to provide greater participation of parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, limited in literacy, or in any racial or ethnic minority group.

8. The **Pierce County School District** will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
9. The **Pierce County School District** will provide assistance to participating parents in such areas as understanding the:
 - a. Georgia Performance Standards (GPS) and/or Common Core GPS
 - b. School improvement and corrective action process
 - c. Components of a school-wide program
 - d. Components of a targeted assistance school – N/A
 - e. State and local assessments
 - f. Requirements of Title I, Part A.
 - g. Ways parents can monitor their children’s progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children.
 - h. Ways parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.
 - Parents will be encouraged to attend meetings, workshops and conferences to learn how they can help their children improve their academic performance.
 - Parents are encouraged to visit their child’s school, volunteer at the school, and participate in parent involvement councils and meetings.
 - Parents can monitor and support their child’s learning by keeping abreast of school procedures (student handbook/agenda), by reviewing progress reports and report cards, by accessing Power School website, by being aware of homework/classwork requirements, and working with schools to schedule conferences to help children improve academically in school.
 - Frequent reports will be made available to parents through agendas, mid-term progress reports, report cards, on-line access to student performance (Power School), weekly progress reports, and conferences.
 - Parents will have the opportunity for reasonable access to school staff by use of conferences, emails, school visits, opportunities to volunteer/mentor, and opportunities to observe and participate in classroom activities.
 - Notify each child’s parent of the results of the school and system adequate yearly progress (AYP) through the Superintendent’s newsletter, local newspapers, school and system websites. If the school has been identified as a needs improvement school then the notification of appropriate actions will be disseminated through letters home and local media.
 - Parents will be encouraged to join with the school in signing a parent/student/teacher compact which establishes expectations for student success.
 - Upon request, parents will be provided information on the professional qualifications of their child’s teacher.
 - Parents will be notified in a timely manner if their child is taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified for four or more consecutive weeks. (Highly qualified refers to teachers who are certified to teach specific grade level(s) and subject(s).)
 - Parents will be provided information concerning their child’s assessment results and interpretation of those results.
 - A description and explanation of the school curriculum and the assessments used to measure student progress are provided through Open Houses, Instructional Fairs,

Battle of the Books, CRCT night, Parent Luncheons/Workshops, GaDOE pamphlets, and classroom newsletters.

- Each school will have an Open House to which all parents of participating children will be invited and encouraged to attend. Parents will be informed about the school-wide Title I program and how it benefits their child. Also, parents will be informed of their rights to be involved in decisions concerning their child's education.
- The Family Resource Center will provide materials containing information on National Educational Goals.

10. The **Pierce County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Parent University classes offered to assist with student achievement
- Monthly Parent Luncheons/Workshops topics and materials based on Needs Assessment.
- Parent Workshops for technology training to access Power School
- Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings for Migrant Parents
- Family Resource Center supplied with parent materials for checkout
- Take – home materials
- Parent Flyers
- Summer Packets
- Newsletters
- Parent Involvement District Website Link

11. The **Pierce County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Professional development will be provided to school personnel through conferences, workshops, publications, etc. to educate teachers, pupil services personnel, administrators, and other staff, 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 home and school. Improving Parent/Teacher Conferencing Staff Development & Surveys will be used to help improve communication between schools and parents.

12. The **Pierce County School District** will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities, including providing information about opportunities for organizations and businesses to work with parents and schools, and encouraging the formation of partnerships between elementary, middle and secondary schools and local businesses that include a role for parents.

- The district parent coordinator provides monthly luncheons where community/business organizations inform parents about pertinent topics.

- Mentors/volunteers from the community and businesses work with schools to enhance partnerships between them.
13. The **Pierce County School District** will establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement.
 14. The **Pierce County School District** will arrange district-wide meetings at a variety of times and may provide with funds provided under Title I, transportation or child care as such services relate to parental involvement.
 15. The **Pierce County School District** will adopt, implement, and model strategies to improve parental involvement.
 16. The **Pierce County School District** will conduct other activities, as appropriate and feasible, such as parent resource centers and opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues beginning at the birth of a child, that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children.
 - The parent resource center is equipped with child development and child rearing information which is available for checkout.
 17. The **Pierce County School District** will collect all unsatisfactory parent comments regarding the Local Educational Agency (LEA) Plan under Section 1112 and submit with LEA when submitted to the Georgia Department of Education (SEA).
 18. The **Pierce County School District** will provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.
 - Collaborate with OTC Adult Education for providing English to be taught to non-English speaking parents.
 - Encourage parents to enroll in GED classes for drop-outs by providing resources and informational brochures.
 19. The **Pierce County School District** will, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of Limited English Proficient (LEP) parents, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities including providing school profiles and information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities in a language and format such parents understand:
 - Parents will be provided timely information about school programs and activities through a variety of ways. These include newsletters, letters, agenda books, telephone contact, flyers, conferences, local media, Notify Me, Call Alert and school/system websites.
 - To the extent practicable, information related to schools, meetings, and other activities will be sent to the homes of participating children in the language used in such homes.