

**Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
Atkinson County School District
2020-2021
June 30, 2020**



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Atkinson County School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Atkinson County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Atkinson County School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

- The district and school policies, the CLIP and the School Improvement/Schoolwide Plans are reviewed each school year and revised periodically.
- Sources used in the development of these policies plans include individual school meetings, completed workshop evaluations, annual parent survey results, parent meetings, workshop discussions, and parent-teacher conferences and oral communication with parent.
- This plan and school policies are posted on our system and school website. This plan is a working document subject to review and revision. The plan is posted on the system website with a feedback form.
- Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Atkinson County School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- The Federal Programs Director, assisted with Parent - Family Engagement Coordinator, will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented.

- Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the Parent-Family Engagement Coordinator to help assist them to improve and strengthen family engagement.
- The Parent-Family Engagement Coordinator will provide guidance and support on appropriate use of parent involvement funds and review school Parental Involvement Policies, School Improvement/Schoolwide Plans, and School-Parent Compacts to ensure compliance.
- When necessary, meaningful consultation will be conducted with local employers, business leaders, institutes of higher education or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parent and family member in education.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Atkinson County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel, teachers, and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

To gain feedback from parents and families as to how the district can improve the academic quality of all Title I, Part A schools and remove any barriers that may be limiting parent participation, the district will do the following:

- Parents are surveyed annually to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent and family engagement programs.
- Parents are given the option to complete the survey via paper copy or electronically. The plan is posted on the district website with a feedback form.
- Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments. The results of these surveys are used to develop strategies for school improvement and to revise the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Policies. These results are also used in planning future parent workshops and meetings.
- Areas evaluated include academics and school leadership, parent involvement, Title I, school environment, and the school Parent and Family Engagement Program.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Atkinson County School District** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- The Parent-Family Engagement Coordinator offers parents the opportunity to give feedback on the 1% reservation of funds by surveying parents on the use of funds. During the Annual Title, I meeting that is conducted at the beginning of school.
- The Parent-Family Engagement Coordinator will provide guidance and support on appropriate use of parent involvement funds and review school Parental Involvement Policies, School Improvement/Schoolwide Plans, and School-Parent Compacts to ensure compliance.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Atkinson County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: Head Start, Pre-Kindergarten, Migrant Program, and ESOL program that encourage and support parents in fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Each Title I school will maintain a Parent Resource Center with age-appropriate materials for parent check-out. The hours of the Parent Resource Center will be advertised to parents through the district and school websites, newsletters, or other written communication.
- Invitations to parent meetings shall be provided in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- Notice of meetings are placed on the district & school websites, district and school calendars, social media, and on the digital marquee signs at each school.
- Students and parents in Head Start and Pre-Kindergarten are given the opportunity to visit the elementary schools in which their children will be enrolling.
- Migrant parents are given information on Pre-Kindergarten enrollment procedures and dates at the spring migrant PAC meeting. The Atkinson Migrant Program coordinates services and provides the School Readiness Program for migrant three and four year old children who do not attend Pre-Kindergarten programs.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Atkinson County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to Parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as:

- The Atkinson County Title I Schools will provide informational meetings and workshops for all parents to gain knowledge about the state-adopted standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment.
- The dates and locations for these meetings and workshops will be posted on each Title I school's website and/or newsletter sent home. Schools will also provide literacy-training workshops.
- Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school in a language parents understand.
- The Atkinson County School District will also provide information on the district website and social media that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Atkinson County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, 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 parents and schools by:

- Using online resources and webinars provided by the Georgia Department of Education, the Atkinson County School System will conduct at least two family and parent engagement trainings for administrators, faculty and staff to learn and to discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community.
- Providing parents with information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand by using GADOE Family Engagement templates/examples and by translating documents into the parents' home language whenever possible.
- The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, Infinite Campus and social media.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The **Atkinson County School District** will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community by the doing the following:

- Providing literacy training for parents through take-home resources and workshops
- Maximizing parental involvement and participation in their children's education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, Atkinson County Family Connection, in parental involvement activities
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by survey feedback and meeting agendas and notes.

This policy was adopted by the **Atkinson County School District** on June 1, 2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 25, 2020.

