



LEA
Parental Involvement Policy
2014-2015
Revised:

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Sumter County School District (which receives Title I, Part A funds) develops jointly with, agrees on with, and distributes to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy). This policy establishes Sumter County School District's expectations for parental involvement in Title I schools and describes how a number of specific parental involvement activities will be implemented and how required actions will be met.

PART I.

OVERVIEW

Sumter County School District will implement the following:

- The school district will plan and conduct programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its Title I schools. These programs, activities and procedures will be planned and administered through meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Title IA, including the development and distribution of a school-parent compact.
- The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out parental involvement activities, and in fulfilling the requirements of Title I A, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, to the extent practicable. This includes providing required information and school reports in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- In carrying out parental involvement activities, and in fulfilling the requirements of Title I A, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of residential facilities in its school attendance area are included in the parental involvement correspondence and activities.
- If the Sumter County School District's Parent Involvement Policy 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 involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district agrees to following the 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 parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and in advisory roles to assist in the education of their child;
- the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II.

**SUMTER COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT
IMPLEMENTATION OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT INITIATIVES**

1. Sumter County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

Surveys

All Title I A schools in the county will make available, in multiple ways (on-line, paper copies distributed to all parents of students, and copies available in each school's Parent Resource Center) a Parent Survey in early spring. Items on the survey will be decided upon by each school, who will take into consideration student academic data, parental involvement trends, and parental suggestions. The district Title I Director will contribute items that will assess parental involvement compliance. Communication which encourages parents to participate in the survey will include telephone calls to each home of each student, announcements in school newsletters/flyers distributed to all parents, invitation on school and district websites, and posters/flyers in the school. The survey will be open for taking for a designated period. Once completed, the district will distribute individual school results and district-wide results to all schools. Results will be presented to all staff in schools, and will be available to all parents through school websites and in a meeting to which all parents of students are invited. Parental feedback, trends, strengths, and areas for improvement will be noted and considered in the development of the LEA Parental Involvement Policy.

Parent Feedback

Every parental involvement meeting, and each parental academic-focus event will provide opportunity for written feedback from parents on offerings in place as well as opportunity for suggestions on future meeting topics and events. Each school

will strive to establish a positive, open, and comfortable rapport with parents where they are at-ease in contributing responses. The LEA will take into consideration all feedback and input from parents, and will identify practices that are currently effective, and areas for improvement, and will incorporate the actions necessary to building effective partnerships with parents into the LEA Parental Involvement Policy. All non-satisfactory comments received will be attached to the plan upon submission to the State Education Agency.

Consulting and Working With Parents

Once the draft LEA Parental Involvement Policy is created (incorporating all parental feedback and suggestions received), each school will offer a meeting to which all parents of students in the school will be invited to participate in the final development and/or revision of the LEA Parental Involvement Policy, with the District Title I Federal Program Director. This meeting will take place no later than October 31st of the new school year.

2. Sumter 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:
 - State and local assessment results will be made available to all parents (school results and district results) in meetings and on websites.
 - Parents will be notified that a school has been identified as Reward, Priority, Focus or Alert School status, and what this means. Actions that the school, school district, and State Department of Education is taking to address this status will be shared.
 - Parents will be provided opportunity for comments and feedback.
 - Parent feedback, and results from the annual Title I parent survey will be considered in the development of each Title I school's School Improvement Plan.
 - Each school will share their School Improvement Plan with parents in a meeting that all parents will be invited to attend, with opportunity for feedback.

3. Sumter County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
- All Title I schools will give parents the opportunity for input on the allocation of the 1% parental involvement funding set-aside.
 - The District Title I Director will work closely with each school's Instructional Lead Teacher to provide guidance and support. The support includes working together in scheduled meetings, to provide opportunity for collaboration and sharing of best-practices and resources. This will include:
 - Opportunity for professional collaboration;
 - Review of Title I Parental Involvement laws and expectations;
 - Various relevant article studies.
 - The District Title I Director will utilize resources provided through the GADOE Parent Engagement Program, and will encourage all Title schools to access and benefit from them:
 - Systematic Family Engagement: A Comprehensive Guide to Implementing an Effective Title I Parental Involvement Program;
 - Opportunity for participating in the Parent Engagement Webinar Series;
 - Sharing of GADOE Parent Engagement publications;
 - Encouraging the use of the Engaging Parents Calendar;
 - Demonstrating the access of resources available through the Parent Engagement Department.
 - The District will purchase and share resources, such as professional development guides for school staffs and parent workshop kits.
 - The District will encourage and support participation in the Georgia Family Engagement Conference.
 - The Title I Director in collaboration with district leaders will gather/plan resources for each school to use when sharing specific topics with parents, including understanding the state's academic content standards and academic achievement standards, understanding state and local academic assessments (including alternate assessments), how to monitor their child's progress, how to support their child in literacy and math, helping with homework, and any other reasonable topics requested by parents.

4. Sumter County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies in other programs and agencies by collaborating with the Early Intervention Program, counselors, PTAs, Local School Councils, and other appropriate agencies, programs, community-based organizations and local businesses to assist with meaningful parental opportunities.
5. Sumter 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 policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluations and feedback provided by parents will include 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 background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation of the 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.

Consulting Parents

Each school will offer meetings to which all parents of students in Title I schools will be invited to attend, in order to participate in the development of the LEA Parental Involvement Policy.

Feedback and suggestions received from parents throughout the year (as outlined below), are incorporated into a draft policy, along with consideration given to a year-end summary that consists of parent participation data reflecting access to offered initiatives. The policy is then presented for further development with, and for approval from, parents.

Parent Feedback Will Provide Plan Content

Every parental involvement meeting, and each parental academic-focus event will provide opportunity for written feedback from parents on offerings in place that are written into policy. In addition, opportunity for suggestions on future meeting topics and events, and improvements to what the school can provide to encourage further effective parental involvement is provided. Each school will strive to establish a positive, open, and comfortable rapport with parents where they are at- ease in contributing responses. The LEA will take into consideration all feedback and input from parents. Practices that are currently effective, and noted areas for improvement, will be noted and incorporated as actions to be implemented as policy.

Surveys

Through the LEA, all Title I A schools in the county will make available, in multiple ways (on-line, paper copies distributed to all parents of students, and copies available in each school's Parent Resource Center) a Parent Survey in early spring. Items on the survey include feedback on practices that are in the current year policy, as well input from each school, who will take into consideration student academic data, parental involvement trends, and parental suggestions. Communication which encourages parents to participate in the survey will include telephone calls to each home of each student, announcements in school newsletters distributed to all parents, invitation on school and district websites, and posters/flyers in the school. The survey will be open for taking for a designated time period. Once completed, the district will distribute individual school results and district-wide results to all schools. Results will be presented to all staff in schools, and will be available to all parents through school websites and in a meeting to which all parents of students are invited. Trends, strengths, and areas for improvement will be noted and considered in the development of the LEA Parental Involvement Policy.

1. Sumter County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. 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 school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
 - the State's academic content standards;
 - the State's student academic achievement standards;
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
 - the requirements of Part A;
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators.

All required topic information will be shared with parents at each school. The Title I Director will gather resources, including powerpoints, informative hand-outs to share, and other meeting materials for schools to use, in addition to school-developed resources, when sharing specific topics. The Title I Director and/or other district administrators will be available to participate in individual school Parent Involvement Meetings. Available topic resources, including special guest presenters, will be made available, and on-line resources will be introduced and demonstrated.

Meetings will be held at each school, at a minimum, once per month, in addition to a minimum of two academic-based family evening events.

Each school will have a Parent Resource Center, where resources and materials will be available to parents. The resources will include information specific to parents on specific topics, as well as resources that parents may borrow as they work with their child to build academic skills. Computers with on-line access will be available for parent use.

Parent Resources available on the GADOE website will be shared with each school and with parents, and accessing information will be demonstrated.

- B. The 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:
- All schools will provide opportunity for all parents to participate in events which will focus on grade level academic expectations, and will offer resources and guidance on how parents can work with their child to achieve academic success. Schools will offer this in monthly meetings and/or family events.
 - All schools will provide the opportunity for all parents to participate in learning about the use of technology to access specific information and on-line activities to support their child's academic achievement. School computers and internet access will be available to parents at all times.
 - Schools will continue to build on resources for parents to access in the Parent Resource Center. Effective use of the resources will be demonstrated.
 - School staff are available to consult with parents on an individual basis to help with any specific needs or interests.
- C. Sumter 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:
- The annual Title I Parent Survey will serve to determine specific areas that may need attention in specific schools; once identified, staff will be informed and supported in improving parent-school relations and strengthening parental involvement opportunities with assistance from the Title I Director.
 - All staff will be presented with strategies associated with effective parent-teacher conferences.
 - Each school will develop, with input from parents, staff and students, a Compact, which will outline how the school and parents will work together, as equal partners, toward student academic success.
 - Each school will develop, with input from parents and school staff, a Parent Involvement Policy that will outline the implementation of actions and strategies to ensure a partnership for the purpose of student success.
 - Student progress will be reported to parents – through writing, conferencing, on-line grades accessibility, with ideas for parental support of student progress.

- Information concerning the Title I programs will be shared, including what parents will receive through the program.
 - Teachers/School Staff will participate in parent meetings and events, as appropriate, to inform and work with parents in a variety of ways to share academic expectations and how parents can be involved in working with their child in achieving academic success.
 - The LEA will continue to build on resources which focus on effective parental involvement practices to make available to schools, and upon request, the Title I Parent Director will provide all necessary support.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, public preschool and other 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, by:
- Each school will work with feeder Day Care programs to foster a smooth transition from Day Care to Kindergarten. Activities will include offering invitations to school events and Open House sessions where information on opportunities and programs is shared.
 - Each school will make available a Parent Resource Center, where information, computers, materials, and academic activities may be easily accessed by parents. All items may be borrowed or used free of charge.
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- Announcements and invitations to parent events and opportunities will be shared in multiple ways, including school bulletins/flyers, inserts to school newsletters, phone calls (district phone master), and website postings. Students will frequently enter information in their Agendas, which are shared with parents on a daily basis.
 - Upon request, information will be translated. The district offers the services of a translator upon request.
 - Information in school newsletters, flyers, and phone calls will be presented in parent-friendly language. Other
 - means of notifying parents of events may include posters, marquee signs, banners, etc.

- F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.
- All feedback opportunities (surveys, written forms) will provide parents the option to make requests for specific Parent Involvement activities or topic presentations.

PART III.

DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- In order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, school meetings will be offered at a variety of times, and may take place in venues other than the school.
- Schools will work with local community library programs to extend parental involvement beyond the school setting.

PART IV.

ADOPTION

This Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by invitations to participate in policy development, meeting agendas, sign-in forms, documented survey results, and completed feedback forms.

This policy was adopted by Sumter County School District and will be in effect for the period of FY15. The school district will make available this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children through the District website, Title I School websites, in each Parent Resource Center in each Title I school, at each Title I school Annual Title I Parent Involvement Meeting, and upon request to Gayla Braziel, Sumter County School District Federal Programs Director through email at gbraziel@sumterschools.org, or by phone at 229-931-8500, or by mail at 100 Learning Lane, Americus, GA 31719.