

**Whitfield County Schools**  
**Title I Parent Involvement Plan**  
**FY17**

The Whitfield County School District affirms and assures the right of parents, whose children are being served in activities funded by Title I, opportunities to participate in the design and implementation of these activities. The Whitfield County School District's expectations for parent involvement are described in this plan.

**Involvement with Plan**

1. A written Title I parent involvement plan developed by the Federal Plan committee (including but not limited to parents of Title I students, teachers, administrators, and counselors) shall be distributed to parents of participating children.

**Involvement with Review**

2. Parents will be involved in writing, editing, and approving the Title I Plan and Title I Parent Involvement Plan for the district and school. Parents shall be involved in the process of school review and improvement as described in each school's local Title I Plan and Parent Involvement Plan.

**Reservation of Funds**

3. The Whitfield County School System and/or individual schools will comply with federal requirements which currently allocate not less than 1% of the monies, if allocation is \$500,000 or more, to parent involvement activities. This includes activities which promote family literacy and parenting skills. At least 95% of the 1% required for parent involvement will be spent at the school level.

**Involve Parents in Decisions Regarding Funds**

4. Parents will be involved in determining how funding allotments will be utilized. Through parent surveys and involvement in planning meetings parent input will provide guidance at the school and district levels regarding the parental involvement activities they require and/or find most beneficial.

**Coordination and Technical Assistance**

5. The Whitfield County School District will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs based on individual school needs as expressed in parent surveys and other parental input.

**Coordination with Other Parent Programs**

6. The Whitfield County School District and each school will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies and activities with programs which may include:  
Head Start  
Even Start  
Title I, Part B – Migrant  
Title I, Part C- Homeless EHCY McKinney-Vento  
Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters

the Parents as Teachers Program  
ESOL program  
State-run preschool programs

### **Evaluation of Parent Involvement Policy**

7. Each Title I school will conduct an annual evaluation, developed with the involvement of parents, to determine the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy in increasing parent participation. The design of the evaluation will assist in determining barriers prohibiting parent participation, giving particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, English language learners, migratory, limited literacy, or of any racial or ethnic minority at both the school and district level.

### **Use of Findings of Evaluation**

8. The parent involvement evaluations at each school will be combined and analyzed annually at the district level to determine the effectiveness of the district level parent involvement plan. The findings of the evaluation of the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy will be used to develop strategies for school improvement, parent participation, staff development and training, and/or to revise the parent involvement plans/policies of all schools and the district..

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

### **Assistance to Promote Understanding**

9. The Whitfield County School District and/or individual schools shall provide information through a number of flexible meetings and/or literature to parents in the language of the home where feasible and appropriate to promote their understanding of such areas as:
  - a. national education goals
  - b. state and local content standards and student performance standards
  - c. school improvement process if applicable
  - d. components of a school-wide program if applicable
  - e. components of a targeted assistance school program if applicable
  - f. state and local assessments
  - g. requirements of Title I, Part A (ARRA, if applicable)
  - h. ways parents can monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children
  - i. ways parents can participate in decisions relating to the education of their children

This plan will be made available to the local community and updated annually to meet the changing needs of parents and the schools.

### **Materials and Training**

10. The individual school and/or the Whitfield County School District shall provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement. This training may include, but not be limited to literacy training and using technology. Parent resource centers will be maintained at each Title I school to provide a ready source of parenting information and resources. To the extent possible, trainings will occur and information will be available in the language used in the home. District-level TI set-aside funds will be used to help provide a bilingual parent involvement coordinator who will offer parenting classes which incorporate technology training for Infinite Campus Parent Portal use and computer literacy. Beginning Computer Skills and Advanced Computer Literacy classes will incorporate awareness information for parents regarding current social media, and technology used by their children at school, as well as how families can access information on school and district websites to help

them become more engaged in their child’s educational experience. Parenting classes include lessons highlighting parent rights, how school systems operate, and ways families can be involved in school planning processes.

### **Educating Staff**

11. With the assistance of parents, the Whitfield County School District and/or school personnel will educate teachers, pupil services, personnel, principals, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate programs, and build home and school ties.

### **Develop Community-Based Support**

12. The Whitfield County School District and/or individual school 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.

### **Parent Advisory Meeting**

13. The Whitfield County School District has an annual parent advisory meeting in the spring of each year. All parents of children attending Whitfield County Schools are invited through newspaper and multi-media venues to attend and participate in reviewing, providing input for revision, and approving changes to the district parent involvement plan, the 1% reservation of Title I funds for parent involvement, and the Consolidated LEA Implementation Plan (CLIP). The meeting may also include coordinators from other federal programs, district and school administrators, and instructional program representatives including Special Education, English Learners, business community members, and students, when appropriate. Additionally, all parents are asked to complete an annual comprehensive needs assessment survey each spring to provide written input for district planning. The results of the survey are used to provide added input for each plan. The Migrant Education Program (MEP) also holds multiple MEP Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings throughout the year in order to keep parents informed and to seek their input.

### **Arrange District-wide Meeting Times**

14. The Whitfield County School District schedules district-wide meetings at a variety of times and may provide support for transportation or childcare with funds received under Title I as such services relate to parental involvement based on need.

### **Involve Parents in the Development of Training for Staff**

15. The Whitfield County School District and local schools may, when appropriate, involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of the training.

### **Adopt and Implement Model Approaches**

16. Resources available from the Georgia Department of Education Parent Engagement site are used to support the promotion of parent involvement and engagement. Each school has access to these resources which are research-based and approved by the GaDOE.

### **Parent Involvement in Activities to Promote Parent Participation**

17. Parents will be given the opportunity and will be encouraged to participate in activities planned in Title I schools. Parent Resource Centers (PRC) will be maintained in all Title I schools.

Other opportunities may include, but not be limited to, parent/teacher conferences including information regarding State's content and student performance standards; learning about state and local assessments as well as national education goals, opportunities to volunteer in the classroom and for special events; family academic nights; literacy classes; parent portal/technology training on working with their children for academic success; and parenting classes regarding 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. Residential facilities for neglected students within the district attendance area will be included in parent involvement activities and correspondence. Presentations, whenever practicable, are presented in the language spoken in the home in order to promote the parental and community participation of parents who are English learners. A concentrated effort is made to promote parental and community participation in programs for children who are English learners by providing interpreters and materials in the home language.

#### **Collect Unsatisfactory Findings of District PI Plan Evaluations**

18. Each school will submit all unsatisfactory comments concerning the school's plan to the LEA. Since all school plans are written following the same criteria as the LEA plan, any unsatisfactory comments related to a school plan will be considered an unsatisfactory comment regarding the LEA plan. All unsatisfactory comments related to the LEA plan will be submitted to the SEA.

#### **Reasonable Support**

19. The Whitfield County School District and/or individual schools will provide reasonable support, allowable under federal funding guidelines, for parental involvement activities that are requested by parents.

#### **Full Opportunities for LEP Parents to Participate**

20. To the extent possible, Whitfield County School District and schools provide full opportunities for the participation of parents who are English learners, 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 parents understand. District-level bilingual translator/interpreters will be available as needed.