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Colquitt County Schools
FY20 Parent and Family Engagement Plan
Revised August 14, 2019

What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents or other family members, in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including making 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.
- That 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.
- The carrying out of other activities such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Colquitt County School System (CCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district’s Title I schools. This plan will describe CCSS’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 family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children’s education. CCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed with Parents and Family Members

In May, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019- 2020 school year. The district sent home invitations to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this

meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the district's strategic plan.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP that was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by June was considered for revisions to this plan.

The district parent and family engagement policy was posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers

Strengthening Our Schools

Each year the district Title I Family Engagement Director will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement activities are being implemented. The district will provide assistance to Title I schools in the following ways:

- Provide frequent notifications and resources to help schools improve and strengthen family engagement.
- Provide monthly technical assistance to Title I school Principals and Parent Liaisons to review family engagement plans, school-family compacts, activities and compliance requirements and ensure they are aligned to the Title I plan and focused on increasing academic student achievement.
- Provide ongoing guidance during school visits on effective family engagement practices.
- Hold an annual training during the summer for parent liaisons and principals.

Reservation of Funds

The CCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the CCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. Parents are given the opportunity to give input on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at school and district parent input meetings as well as through annual district and school parent surveys.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited and encouraged to share their input and suggestions throughout the year on the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the CLIP and their school-family compact, school parent and family engagement plan and the Title I Schoolwide Plan in the following ways:

- In the spring of 2019, all parents of children in Title I schools were invited to give input and feedback on the District Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment/District Improvement Plan. Open community input meetings were held and online feedback forms were available in May to

gather input for the district needs assessment. Parent, student, and staff surveys are given annually and used in the needs assessment and planning process

- Feedback forms available at the school, online and in the community
- To the extent feasible, schools and the district will use virtual options to host meetings and collect parent input
- School parent input meetings and contacting their Parent Liaison or other parent engagement representative
- The annual district survey available on the district Title I webpage
- District-wide parent input meetings
- Contacting the Title I Department at 229-890-6200, ext. 10034

Parents will be notified via school and district website, notifications at the school, announcements at parent events and in the community about these opportunities as they are scheduled. Feedback forms are provided online as well as in the schools and in the community giving parents the opportunity to share their input and suggestions on the use of Title I funds, their school's Title I family engagement program, their school's school-family compact, their school's family engagement plan and the district family engagement plan.

Building Family and School Capacity

Colquitt County School System (CCSS) will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and families to support a partnership among Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. The Academic Parent-Teacher Team (APTT) model of family engagement is one such initiative. Training and support of APTT was provided for through the Georgia Department of Education. APTT is a program wherein teachers and families partner to address academic goals through at-home learning activities.

For Parents/Families

CCSS will work as a district and through its Title I schools to assist 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. CCSS will provide specific information related to APTT and workshops for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these workshops will be posted on the district website, shared through each Title I school's newsletter and use of each school's social media.

CCSS will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments and APTT materials for at-home learning 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 assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), the CCSS technology specialists will collaborate with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The CCSS, along with the Title I schools, will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state-funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host transition events for rising kindergarten students, rising sixth-grade students, and rising tenth grade students.

During the 2019-2020 school year, Colquitt County Schools will implement Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) at Odom Elementary School for the Preschool Migrant Education Program. The Georgia Board of Education defines APTT as "a family engagement model, designed by Dr. Maria Paredes of WestEd that strengthens teacher-family relationships by focusing on student academic growth and achievement. The APTT Model elevates the efforts of traditional parent-teacher conferences by inviting all families of the same classroom teacher to meet together rather than individually." With the teacher, families will set student academic goals to be addressed through at-home learning activities and strategies.

For School Staff

The CCSS will conduct monthly meetings during the school year for principals and the school family engagement coordinator to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These meetings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The CCSS will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families. The Family Engagement Leadership Team's (FELT) will conduct APTT training for the MEP preschool staff to support and sustain APTT within the MEP Preschool program.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, council meetings, APTT meetings and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and council meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, social media, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Annual Evaluation

In the Spring of each year, the CCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and Stakeholder Input Meetings.

Each Title I school will conduct a survey to gather feedback and input on the parent and family engagement activities and programs. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also schedule Stakeholder Input Meetings to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. Surveys will be posted on school websites and set home with students. One

Call will be used to notify parents of the survey and to remind parents of the opportunity to participate. Notice of Stakeholder input meetings will be sent home with students, posted on school websites and marquees, and advertised in the newspaper.

The CCSS will use the findings from the school and district meetings and the school and district surveys to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plans.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Special Education and ESOL Departments 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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

- CLIP and parent, family and community input meetings: Spring 2020;
- Annual parent surveys spring 2020
- School parent and family engagement events and activities (check your school parent events calendars, compacts and Parent and Family Engagement Plans August 2019 – May 2020)

Adoption of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

This district-wide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the Title I Spring Meeting, online feedback, and district-wide employee meeting.

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan has been jointly developed with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, community members, school and district personnel at the parent input meetings in the spring of 2019. This plan was adopted by the Colquitt County School System Title I Department on June 30, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020

academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2019.

Thank you Colquitt County Schools parents, families, and school community for your valuable input which helped to jointly develop this Parent and Family Engagement Plan. Staying engaged in your child's education and the decision making process for schools and the district is vital to our success. If at any time during the year you have additional comments or feedback regarding this plan or other matters relating to your school and district parent and family engagement programs, feel free to contact the Title I Department via phone, email or

by mailing the form below. We look forward to meeting you at our next stakeholder input meeting in the spring.

Stakeholder Input Comments

Please contact me regarding my concern/comment.

Phone _____

Email _____

Name _____ (Please print)

I am a: ___ parent ___ family member ___ school staff member ___ community member

My child attends _____

Date _____

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