

Revised August 1, 2024

Okapilco Elementary School

2023-2024

Parent and Family Engagement Plan for Shared Student Success

What is Title I?

Okapilco Elementary School is identified as a Title I school as part of the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards. The goal is to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement plan.

School Plan for Shared Student Success

This is a plan that describes how Okapilco Elementary School will provide opportunities for family engagement to support student learning. Okapilco values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members and desires to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes ways that Okapilco will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote learning at school and at home.

How is the plan developed?

Okapilco Elementary School invited all parents to attend our annual Title I Input Meetings in the spring to review and revise the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, as well as the School-Family Compact, the school-wide plan, building staff capacity, and the family engagement budget. Parents also could give feedback on the district's Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Plan (CLIP).

Another way that parents were invited to give their input was through the school website and social media; the plan and input form were posted on the website for parents to view and submit feedback. The school also distributed a survey on paper and online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Throughout the year, parents could give feedback during other parent meetings and activities and through the Local School Governance Team, which includes parent representatives. The plan is always available to parents on the website, in the Okapilco lobby, and in the Parent Resource Center.

All parent feedback, along with input from staff, was used to revise the plan for the coming school year.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Okapilco will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and migratory children.

Where is it available?

The plan is included in the student handbook provided to all students and their families at the beginning of the school year. Copies of the plan are available in the Parent Resource Center located in the school's Media Center. The plan also can be viewed in the Parent and Family Engagement Notebook in the front lobby and on the school website.

Our Annual Title I Meeting

In the first quarter of the 23-24 school year, Okapilco Elementary School will convene its annual Title I meeting. Flyers will be sent home with each student to invite all parents to attend. The meeting also will be publicized through other means such as Remind, social media posts, and the school website.

At the meeting, a Title I presentation will be shared to inform parents about these and other topics:

- the requirements of Title I and their rights to be involved in the education of their children
- Title I funding
- parent and family engagement activities
- CCRPI update
- update on testing data.

The school will accommodate the needs of parents in various ways. We will hold the meeting on more than one day and at different times. Information also will be made available on the school website. A translator will be provided.

Title I Revision and Stakeholders' Input Meeting

In the spring of 2024, Okapilco School will host input meetings for parents to give their feedback on Title I programs and plans, including the school and district Parent and Family Engagement Plan, the School-Family Compact, the parent engagement budget, the Title I Plan and CLIP, and building staff capacity for parent engagement.

School-Family Compact

Okapilco parents, staff, and students developed an agreement called the School-Family Compact. The compact outlines how parents, our school staff, and students will share responsibility for improving academic achievement and meeting challenging state academic standards.

The compact is included in the student handbook and is available on the school website and in the Okapilco lobby and the Parent Resource Center. During parent-teacher conferences, the compact will be reviewed as it relates to individual student achievement.

Parents and stakeholders are welcome to provide feedback on the compact and plan throughout the school year. In the spring, parents can give feedback at the annual Title I Input Meetings and by responding to a parent survey. They also can provide feedback through the school website. The compact is revised each year based on the feedback from parents, students, and teachers.

Let's Get Together! Parent and Family Engagement Opportunities

Besides the fall and spring Title I meetings, Okapilco Elementary School offers a variety of opportunities for families to be involved in their child's education. We want to build the capacity of our parents and families to improve academic achievement.

Parent-teacher conferences are conducted twice each year for parents and teachers to communicate about student progress. These meetings will be offered before and after school, during planning periods, and on Early Release Days to accommodate parent schedules. Additional conferences can be scheduled at the request of parents or school staff.

Academic events for families are offered throughout the year including Open House; parent-student workshops that usually are scheduled in September, November, February, and March; and other programs. Families will receive a list in the fall of events planned for the 2022-2023 school year. Information about individual events will be provided at least two weeks in advance. Okapilco School uses input from surveys and other parent feedback to plan these workshops to meet the needs and interests of families and to improve students' academic progress. Parents and faculty have identified a particular need for help at home on reading comprehension and fluency and on math skills and strategies. Workshops, newsletters, and the Parent Resource Area will be some of the ways Okapilco will meet this need.

Parent-teacher conferences, academic events, newsletters, and other means will be used to assist parents in understanding:

- Challenging state academic standards and our curriculum
- State and local academic assessments and the levels students are expected to meet
- Title I, Part A requirements
- How to monitor their child's progress

· How to work with educators to improve achievement.

Academic events will be offered at different times to accommodate family schedules. When possible, academic events will be offered online for families who can't attend in person. Transportation for any school function is available for parents upon request. A translator will be provided.

Parent volunteers are always welcome at Okapilco. Parents can serve as classroom helpers, can be reading buddies for Accelerated Reader, can assist in the Media Center, and can help at school events.

Communication Methods

Okapilco Elementary School will use a variety of methods to keep parents informed about family engagement opportunities. Flyers, email, apps such as Remind 101 and Class Dojo, newsletters, and website and social media posts are among the methods the school will use to reach out to parents. Parents will be informed about their child's academic progress through report cards, progress reports, parent-teacher conferences, other written communication, and phone calls.

As much as possible, information will be provided in a language that parents can understand. Flyers, newsletters, and other information will be offered in English and Spanish. Interpreters also will be available for parent-teacher conferences and at workshops to the extent practicable.

Okapilco School will inform and encourage the participation of all parents, including parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, families that are homeless, and parents of migrant children.

Parent Resource Area and Other Help for Parents

A Parent Resource Area is located in the school's Media Center and is open most days from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Parents are welcome to check out books and other academic materials, to take home academic resources for helping their child, to view information related to parent and family engagement, and to use a computer. Materials are available in English and Spanish.

Okapilco staff will help parents to be informed about other resources within the Colquitt County School System as well as in the community that can assist them in their child's education. Examples of these school and community resources are Pre-K and pre-schools, Babies Can't Wait, the PrimeTime after-school program of the YMCA, the Boys and Girls Club, Breathe special needs ministry, and the Moultrie-Colquitt County Public Library.

PreK/preschool parents are invited to a transition workshop in May to inform them of expectations for their rising kindergarteners and to provide resources that can be used at home to prepare their child. Fifth-grade students and parents are invited to attend a meeting at WJW Williams Middle School in the spring to ease the transition to sixth grade. Other meetings will be provided for our EL (English Learners) and migrant families.

Family Engagement is a Priority

Okapilco Elementary School:

- believes parents play an important role in their child's learning.
- believes in encouraging parents to be actively involved in their child's education
- believes that regular, two-way, meaningful communication between families and school staff is important.
- believes 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.

Working Together

To help your child reach district and school goals, Okapilco School, parents, and students will work together to:

Responsibilities of the school and the teacher

- Provide parents with access to Accelerated Reader and other online resources for reading and math
- Host open houses and academic workshops for families to learn ways to support their children in reading and math
- Offer grade-level and school-wide newsletters with helpful information and resources

Family Responsibilities

- Encourage my child to read at home every day and discuss progress toward Accelerated Reader and math goals
- Attend open house and academic workshops to learn ways to support my child at home in reading and math

Use resources and ideas provided by teachers to practice reading comprehension and math strategies

Student Responsibilities

- Read at home and track my progress in Accelerated Reader and math
- Work with my parents to use the resources and practice the skills we learn at academic events/open house
- Bring home my weekly binder/planner, newsletters, and flyers so my parents have information to help me

Let's Get Together: Activities to Build Partnerships with Families

- Parent-teacher conferences

- Family academic workshops
- Other workshops for parents
- Open House/day to meet the teachers
- Volunteering and observation

District and School Goals

The Colquitt County School District's goals for the 2023-2024 school year:

- By the end of 2023-2024 school year, the CCSS will increase students' achievement as measured by the GMAS (Content Mastery and Levels 3 and 4) by 3 percentage points.
- By the end of 2023-2024 school year, the CCSS will use the FY22 percentage date to decrease the percentage of students who miss more than 10 school days by 3 percentage points.

Okapilco's school goals for the 2023-2024 school year:

To increase student performance for the 2022-2023 school year on the key indicators listed below.

- Measured growth for K-5 students will exceed projected growth in Math by 2 points.
- Measured growth for K-5 students will exceed projected growth in ELA by 2 points.
- Measured growth for 3rd-5th students will exceed projected growth in Science by 1 point.

Engaging parents and families in their child's education is an important part in reaching these goals.

Building Capacity

All of the components of this Parent and Family Engagement Plan are designed to build the capacity of parents and family members to help their child to succeed. Family engagement is an important foundation for academic achievement at Okapilco.

In addition, Okapilco School will build the capacity of our staff regarding parent engagement. With input from parents by survey responses and other feedback, the school will educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders and staff members on the importance of parent and family engagement. Training will be offered on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners and in a language, they can understand. Another area for building capacity will be responding to parent requests for parent and family engagement activities, particularly how to support student learning at home in reading and math. Professional learning will take place in school-wide faculty meetings, in grade-level/support staff groups, and individual assignments.

Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Okapilco Elementary School and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community.

- Welcoming all families
- Communicating effectively
- Supporting student success
- Speaking up for every child
- Sharing power
- Collaborating with Community

Contact Information

Parents are welcome to call or email us if they have questions or need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in parent and family engagement activities. The school phone number is 229-890-6191. The address is 3300 Georgia Highway 33 N., Moultrie, GA 31768. The school website is <http://oes.colquitt.schooldesk.net>

Principal Dr. Gistacy Brown, gistacy.brown@colquitt.k12.ga.us

Assistant Principal Brad Roberts, brad.roberts@colquitt.k12.ga.us

Social Worker Tonja Merritt, tonja.merritt@colquitt.k12.ga.us

Parent and Family Engagement Liaison, Tiffany Peterson, tiffany.peterson@colquitt.k12.ga.us

Your child's teacher, first.name.last.name@colquitt.k12.ga.us

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the schools' goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the main office. We will then submit comments to the district office.