

Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan



Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan *Talbot County School District* 2024-2025 Revision Date: June 12, 2024

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Talbot 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 Talbot 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.
- Consistent with Section 1116, 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 Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
- 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 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 Talbot 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:

Our parents/community are encouraged to join our staff in developing and assessing the CLIP (Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan) and the Title I Parents and Family Engagement Plan. Parental and community feedback is critical and therefore considered strongly when designing and up-dating plans and policies. Parental Annual community surveys are also sending strong messages to our staff as to what is working and what needs to be revised. Parents/community are invited to at least two meetings to submit input concerning the Title I Parent Engagement Plan and the CLIP. The Title I office will file agendas, sign-in sheets and comments pertaining to the meeting. If parents are unable to attend the meeting, they can obtain a draft copy of the Title I Family Engagement Plan/ CLIP from the school offices and mail or call in the comments to the Federal Programs Directors.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Talbot 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:

We strongly believe that the coordination and implementation of parental involvement activities support the success of the whole-child. The Family Engagement Coordinator and Title I Director will support the school with engaging parents in their child's education. Coordinators and integration of programs and activities will be included in consultations if applicable Special Education, Neglected and delinquent, ESOL, Homeless, Head start, Pre-K, Community/State agencies (Family Connection).

The district office will frequently communicate with the school via visitations, meetings, email, phone calls, and memos to discuss trainings, meetings, and events for Title I Parent Engagement. Focus will include but not limited to training materials, informational materials, and access to the Parent Resource Center located at the school. Each meeting at the beginning of the school year, we will seek volunteers to serve on the Title I advisor Council. The school annually revises the school-parent-student compact. The compact is signed annually with understanding and participation by all parties. If the compact is not acceptable by all parties, exceptions can be made.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Talbot County School Board will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement 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 and 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 involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Parents are annually given the opportunity to participate in Title I written survey. The opportunity is given at meetings and school athletic events as well as via mail. All inputs comments and suggestion are collected: organized, and filed under the supervision of Title I office. The school leadership team considers the feedback in their meetings as the school improvement plan is being revised. The leadership team uses the survey result to plan activities for parent engagement that will help parents to assist their student with academic/whole-child success. The Title I Parent Engagement Plan and Comprehensive Improvement Plan is reviewed and revised at least annually and more times if needed.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Talbot County School Board 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 (if applicable) and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Talbot County's budget is under \$500, 000; therefore the 1% reservation of funds does not apply for parent involvement activities. In the event the budget is over \$500, 000 allocation of the 1% will apply for parent involvement. Budgets are discussed and shared with parents at meeting to provide for continuous input throughout the year.

The school Leadership team along with the Parent Involvement Committee will provide input for the Parent Involvement Plan, annual activities and Title I allocation expenditures. The Advisory Committee and Leadership Team includes school administration, teachers, staff, instructional coaches, Title I directors, parents and community members. All staff, parents and community leaders can attend the meetings.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Talbot 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: *[Insert programs, such as: Head Start or other public preschool programs, parent resource centers, and other programs]* that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Insert programs; (Sp Ed, EIP (Early Intervention program), Head Start, ESOL (English for speaker of other language) and other programs as appropriate to support parents in giving meaningful support in educating their children.

The Talbot County School System support the coordination and integration of services to support transition events and activities for students/parents, communication concerning transition and available resources are available in an easy to understand applicable language to parents via school web site, telephone, social media, (Facebook), parents, call center, local newspaper, flyers, parent/teacher conferences, workshops Resource Center).

Annually during the spring, Head start and Pre-K plans transition visits for parent and students to prepare Headstart parents and Head start for transition to Pre-K, Pre-K staff meet annually with Pre-K parents /students to plan transition activities to prepare Pre-K parents/student for Kindergarten. Transition activities are also planned by the administrators and staff to support transitions from elementary school to middle school and from middle to high school. The Counselor supports all transition activities with a targeted focus on post-secondary activities/career pathway/ dual enrollment.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Talbot 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

Communication and participation is essential to ensuring education the whole-child. Meeting are provided to give parents the opportunity to gain important information about assessment that measure education and goals, standard, right and responsibilities related to Title I, assessment, and ESSA. Reading, math and writing skill building is also including in meetings/workshops. Additionally methods for contacting the school and ways to monitor and set goals for students are addressed. Further information/guided for our parents are located in the Parent Resource Room, organized and supervised by the Family Engagement Coordinator.

Activities/Events: Title I Info Night(orientation), Building Readers Newsletter(Literacy Tips for Parents), Grandparents Breakfast, Mother's Breakfast, Father's Breakfast, Scholastic Reading Night, Curriculum Night, Family Math Night, Family Literacy Night, Lunch n' Learn –Academic, Good Behavior, Attendance, Parent Workshops(Assessment and Test-taking skills, Georgia Performance Standards, Handouts/Flyers(Ways Parents Can Their Child Succeed in School, School Communication Tools, roundtable forums), Doughnuts for Dads, Talk Time with Dads and First Day meet and greet with Parents.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Talbot 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:

The principal will create agenda/training for the staff and faculty to help promotes communicate and participation as equal partners in the education of their child. The Title I director have provided technical, increasing the effective assistance to the principal. Communication between the home and school is on-going with the district and school. Technical assistance will be provided in person to staff at least twice a semester addressing tips for communicating with parents and ways to improve the communication process. Continuous tips will be shared via email with staff.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Talbot County School and District are committed to involving all parents in the process of educating their children. We support flexible meeting forms and various mode of communication to support parents as they commit to helping to educate all children..

- ✓ Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
- ✓ Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training

- ✓ Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- ✓ Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- ✓ Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- ✓ Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
- ✓ Establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs
- ✓ Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

?