WHAT IS FAMILY & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT?

Decades of research strongly suggest that families have a significant influence on their child’s achievement in school and throughout life. Family engagement in Cobb means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. We believe...

A) successful schools are a foundation of community stability, growth, and prosperity;
B) family and community engagement is critical to student and district success;
C) in a constant and purposeful focus on what is best for students;
D) creativity and innovation are encouraged and embraced by all stakeholders; and
E) in cultivating a positive environment where students are provided pathways for success.
Cobb County School District (CCSD) supports and solicits family engagement of children being served in activities funded by Title I. This is an essential component for increasing student achievement and ensuring continued success. In support of strengthening student academic achievement, CCSD has developed this engagement policy that establishes the district’s expectations for family and community engagement. The policy includes guided strategies and resources that strengthen school-parent partnerships in the district’s Title I schools. This policy was developed jointly with the input of CCSD and Title I stakeholders. Parent comments and survey results can be located on the CCSD Title I Website at www.cobbk12.org under the Teaching and Learning Department tab. All parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019-2020 school year during input opportunities. Throughout the course of the year, parents work to share their ideas and provide suggestions to help the district, school, and students to reach our students’ academic achievement goals. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year.

In the fall, the Title I Supervisor will provide guidance and professional development to schools on effective family engagement activities, school family engagement plans, and school-family compact. The training will also include building parent capacity that will be delivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. Ongoing Tuesday Talks and Georgia Department of Education Family-School Partnership Program webinars will ensure local school staff family engagement requirements are being satisfied and those family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district’s Title I Supervisor to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

CCSD will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Furthermore, CCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved for 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 I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to participate in two opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.
Federal Programs State of the District Opportunities
~ Webinar October 2019 & Face-to-Face Meeting March 17, 2020
All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Cobb County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2020-21 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent utilizing the district communication system, district websites, and local news media.

School Improvement Opportunities
~ August-September, 2019 and March-April, 2020
During the fall, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school’s parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home utilizing the school communication system notifying families of the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school website.

During the spring, a second input opportunity will be provided to families through the annual district and school surveys. The surveys will contain questions related to the family engagement budget, parent input on the use of the Title funds to support family engagement programs, as well as a section for parents to provide their comments to improve their child(ren)’s academic

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.academics.cobbk12.org/Title1 to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.

Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the CCSD website.
BUILDING CAPACITY

The CCSD will build the schools’ and families’ capacity for strong family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. The goal of building the capacity of our families is to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through various districtwide activities and programs.

Additionally, members of a team will receive training and support for the implementation of the following two evidence-based family engagement models that build partnerships with parents:

- Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) is being implemented during the 2019-2020 school year at Lindley Sixth Grade Academy and conceptualized at Riverside Intermediate
- Learning Launch Challenge library series being implemented at Belmont Hills Elementary, Clay Elementary, Hendricks Elementary, Riverside Primary, Campbell and Griffin Middle Schools, and is also available districtwide

Each model focuses on instructional goals matched to student needs with the support of teachers, families, and community partners.

OF PARENTS

The CCSD will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to families in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student’s learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I programs. District Family Engagement Staff will support the implementation of Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) and Learning Launch Challenge to connect student’s academic achievement to family and community engagement. The CCSD webpage provides access to resources 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 classes and Learning Launch Challenge events will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I district and school’s website.

The CCSD 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, the elementary schools will host kindergarten articulation days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. Middle and high schools will host opportunities that support the transition of students from elementary to middle, middle to high and high to post-secondary education. The CCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

OF SCHOOL STAFF

To ensure that information related to the district, school, parent programs, EngageONE meetings, and schoolwide activities are 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 meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize the school communication system, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents. Additionally, district and school staff will participate in quarterly trainings on building staff capacity while members of a team will receive training for the implementation of Academic Parent Teacher Teams and Learning Launch Challenge for districtwide building parent capacity.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Title I Supervisor will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Teaching & Learning and Teaching & Learning Support and Specialized Services 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 AND FAMILIES
[Register through ParentVUE]

School Improvement Opportunities
August – October 2019
March – April 2020
Local school site

District Annual Parent Survey
March – April 2020

Federal Programs State of the District
October 2019
Webinar
March 17, 2020
Location(s) To Be Determined

FOR SCHOOLS

Building Staff Capacity Training
September 20, 2019
December 13, 2019
February 14, 2020
April 30, 2020
Local school site

Principal and Support Staff Training
August 2019
March 2020
Rose Garden Educational Center

Parent Facilitator Meetings
August 13, 2019
November 12, 2019
February 11, 2020
May 12, 2020
Rose Garden Educational Center

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PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, the CCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I Schools through an annual parent survey, the School Improvement Forums, and the Evidence-based/Logic Model Methodology.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey via email and post the survey on district and school websites for parents to complete.

The CCSD will use the findings from these resources to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

ADOPTION

CCSD Title I Family and Community Engagement Policy was jointly reviewed and revised by parents of participating children on or before August 15, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2019.

CONTACT

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Thank you,

Tiffany Honoré
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Federal Programs Director