



OCONEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

District Parental Involvement Plan

2015-2016

Revised July 1, 2015

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Oconee County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this LEA parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA 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 ESEA, 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 statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

(A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.

- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.*
- (C) 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.*
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Oconee County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:

All parents and community stakeholders are invited and encouraged to participate in the development of the district's Parent Involvement Plan. An invitation to participate is published in the Oconee Enterprise for two weeks prior to a meeting, which is held in July. An electronic draft of the plan is also available on the school district website for all parents and stakeholders to review. Paper copies of the draft plan are available in each school office and the Board office for review as well. Those who have suggestions for revisions for the plan are encouraged to contact the Title I Director by email or phone.

2. The Oconee County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

All parents and community stakeholders are invited and encouraged to participate in the development of the district's Comprehensive LEA Implementation Plan (CLIP). An invitation to participate is published in the Oconee Enterprise for two weeks prior to a meeting, which is held in July. An electronic draft of the plan is also available on the school district website for all parents and stakeholders to review. Paper copies of the draft plan are available in each school office and the Board office for review as well. Those who have suggestions for revisions for the plan are encouraged to contact the Title I Director by email or phone. Parents and community stakeholders are also invited to participate in the development of the district's Strategic Plan, which determines goals for the district for a five-year period.

3. The Oconee County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

Although not required, the district elects to set aside a portion of our Title I funds to support Title I schools who hold parent involvement activities. This may include paying for presenters or speakers, providing materials for workshops, or providing childcare for parents who participate in parent involvement activities. The Title I Director consults with principals of Title I schools regularly to determine what support may be needed.

4. The Oconee County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under Head Start, local preschool and Pre-K programs, and Special Education by:

Title I schools will work closely with Head Start as well as local preschool and Pre-K providers to plan for effective transition to Kindergarten. This will include providing support for parents of transitioning

children. Title I schools will also work closely with the Special Education Parent Mentor to collaborate when appropriate to provide parent involvement activities.

5. The Oconee County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

Each Spring, parents of identified Title I students will be asked to complete a survey in which they evaluate the Title I program at their child's school and provide feedback about the Title I services in which their child has participated during the year. This survey will be available electronically as well as in print. Results from the survey are reviewed very carefully and used to determine the effectiveness of the Title I program at each school as well as to plan for the coming year.

6. The Oconee County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

Each Title I school will jointly develop with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. This compact will be written in family-friendly language and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand and will be distributed to parents of identified Title I students.

7. The Oconee County School District will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

- The State's academic content standards
- The State's student academic achievement standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

Title I teachers at each school and the Title I Director will provide workshops for parents on topics including preparing for the Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade Assessment, understanding the Georgia Standards of Excellence and the school's curriculum, understanding the MAP assessment and how results from MAP can help us help your child, understanding the Title I program and how it benefits your child, ways parents can monitor their child's progress, and how to have a successful parent-teacher conference. Take-home materials will be provided at many of these workshops, and childcare will be provided.

8. The Oconee County School District will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

Computers are available at each Title I school for parent use during the school day. Some Title I schools have Parent Resource Centers from which parents can borrow or check out materials to read or use at home. Title I students may be issued Nook e-readers to use for reading at home and with their parents. During a workshop on the topic of ways parents can monitor their child's progress, parents can learn how to access the Parent Portal in PowerSchool, where they can monitor their child's grades and attendance.

9. The Oconee County School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools by:

The Title I Director provides training for faculty and staff of Title I schools entitled "The Basics of Family Engagement for Teachers and Principals." This training will help faculty and staff strengthen their skills and knowledge for building family-school partnerships that can increase student academic achievement. In this training, the importance of valuing parents as their child's first teachers will be emphasized.

10. The Oconee County School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Title I schools will work closely with Head Start as well as local preschool and Pre-K providers to plan for effective transition to Kindergarten. This will include providing support for parents of transitioning children. Title I schools will also work closely with the Special Education Parent Mentor to collaborate when appropriate to provide parent involvement activities.

11. The Oconee County School District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Documents that are important for parents to understand the Title I program will be translated into Spanish and other languages as practicable. Interpreters will be provided for face-to-face meetings when needed and/or upon parent request. Language Line, an over-the-phone interpretation service, is available for phone communication with parents who are not proficient in English. Finally, the schools and the district will strive to ensure that all documents are written in clear, jargon-free language that parents can understand.

12. The Oconee County School District will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.

Parents may request specific support or a specific parent involvement activity by contacting their child's Title I teacher, their principal, or the district Title I Director.

PART III: DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Oconee County School District may provide opportunities to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as some or all of the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1118 (e) of the ESEA:

- 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 parental involvement 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 parental involvement 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 parental involvement
- Establishing a LEA 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 parental involvement activities

PART IV: ADOPTION

This LEA parental involvement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by copies of invitations to participate, meeting sign-in sheets, and copies of emails.

This policy was adopted by the Oconee County School District on July 6, 2015 and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2015.