



Oconee County Schools
District Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2020-2021
Revised July 24, 2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Oconee 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.

Oconee County Schools 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

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Oconee County Schools 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 paragraph (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

- A. Stakeholders including all parents will be given an opportunity to provide input on the District Parents and Family Engagement Plan by providing feedback through communication with Title I school or district Federal Programs Director or by attending the District-Wide Planning Session.
- B. Communicate with parents via the district and Title I Schools’ websites, post invitation to attend meeting, post meeting announcements on school and district websites, Title I Parental Engagement Meetings.
- C. Conduct the annual Parental Involvement planning meeting.

Oconee County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the process of school review and improvement:

- A. Develop the Annual Comprehensive Local Improvement Plan (CLIP) meeting, School Improvement Plan (SIP), and Title I Targeted Assistance Plan (TAP), as required.
- B. Provide parents an opportunity to share on-going feedback.
- C. Provide interpreters/translators for parents during meetings as requested.
- D. Share revised plans on district and school websites, in Parent Resource areas, and at all Title I Annual Meetings.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Oconee County Schools 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:

- A. The Director of Federal Programs will provide technical assistance to all Title I schools to assist schools in the development of their school parent and family engagement plans, school-parent compacts and all other requirements for Title I parent and family engagement.
- B. Title I liaisons in each Title I school will serve as building level support to ensure all requirements for Title I parents and family engagement are met.
- C. Title I meetings are held yearly to serve as orientation for administrators and teachers to meet the requirements under Title I.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Oconee County Schools 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 on 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:

- A. The district will annually obtain feedback from parents through the use of a survey that parents complete in the spring of each school year seeking feedback regarding the services in which their child has participated during the school year. This survey is available electronically and in print.
- B. Collaboration with the Special Education Department, Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Special Education Parent Mentor, District Homeless Liaison, ESOL Program Manager, Migrant Program Staff and Immigrant Program parents.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Oconee County Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as Pre-K (Bright from the Start), Homeless, English Learners, Immigrant, Neglected, and Delinquent, and other district programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- A. Working closely with local preschool and Pre-K providers to plan for effective transition to Kindergarten, which includes providing support for parents of transitioning students.
- B. Coordinating with Special Education Parent Mentor to collaborate when appropriate to provide parent involvement activities.

- C. Hosting parent meetings at Title I schools regarding coordination of services and transition from one level to another.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Oconee County Schools 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 information 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:

- Challenging State academic standards
- State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- Requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

Activities to support building capacity of parents may include workshops offered at convenient times regarding:

- Understanding MAP Assessments results
- New ELA Resources for elementary and middle schools
- Successful parent-teacher conferences
- How to assist your child with homework
- Technology integration in the classroom
- Digital access to curriculum
- Utilizing technology for effective communication
- Career education and high school pathways

Computers are available at each Title I school for parents and family members use during the school day. Some Title I schools have Parent Resource Centers from which parents and family members can borrow or check out materials to read or use at home. All students, including Title I students, have a district-issued Chromebooks that can be used for reading and learning at home and with their parents or family members.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Oconee 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:

- A. Hosting annual trainings with school administrators/principals, registrars, counselors, bookkeepers, and designated Title I school staff.

- B. Hosting trainings for all school staff members twice per semester
- C. Professional Learning for all Title I Schools.
- D. Title I Principals and Staff Title I orientation and ongoing technical assistance.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Oconee County Schools may also engage in any or all of the following, as suggested by parents and families:

- A. Paying reasonable and necessary costs associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- B. Training parents to help with involving other parents.
- C. Arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home meetings to enable greater participation of families.
- D. Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

ADOPTION

Oconee County Schools District Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by feedback and input collected during the June 20, 2019 Districtwide Planning Session.

This plan was finalized by the Oconee County School District on July 24, 2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2020.