



***Colquitt County Schools
2015-2016
Title I
District Parent Involvement Policy***

Dr. Samuel DePaul, Superintendent



Mr. James Harrell – Federal Programs Director

Darlene Reynolds – District Parent Involvement Director

School Parent Engagement Coordinators

School	Parent Engagement Coordinator	Principal
Cox Elementary	Tavores Summlin	Jim Horne
Doerun Elementary	Kati Stephan	Chuck Jones
Funston Elementary	Brooke Smith	Ricky Reynolds
Hamilton Elementary	Katie Reed	Krista Harrell
Norman Park Elementary	Shawntel Reed	Stacey Rutledge
Odom Elementary	Lara Littleton	Trish Lirio
Okapilco Elementary	Jessica Hancock	Eric Croft
Stringfellow Elementary	Sheila Williams	Tret Witherspoon
Sunset Elementary	Harrell Gant	Keith Adams
R. B. Wright Elementary	Cari Huante	Summer Hall
Williams Middle School	Marsha Watson	Jamie Horne
C. A. Gray Jr. High	Kathy Blaylock	Fred Smith
Colquitt County High School	Renee Tucker	Stephanie Terrell
Achievement Center	Le Lang	Darius Dawson

Introduction

Colquitt County Schools has an on-going commitment to our Title I parents. Parental involvement is defined as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Our goal is to ensure that our Title I parents and their children receive extraordinary services and assistance that will lead to improved academic achievement. The district recognizes that parents are an integral part of a child’s success in school, starting with the concept of being the child’s first teacher. As a conduit for their children’s success, the district will assist parents of all socioeconomic levels in solidifying their ongoing commitment to their child’s success.

Parent involvement may be defined as, but is not limited to: parenting, communicating, learning and home, volunteering, decision-making, and collaborating with the community.

The Colquitt County School District will continue to build its capacity for strong parental involvement. The District will support a partnership between its schools, parents/caregivers, and the community to improve student academic achievement and

school performance. These programs will provide assistance to parents/caregivers, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:

- *the State's academic content standards,*
- *the District's curriculum that aligns with the content standards,*
- *the state and local academic assessments,*
- *how to monitor their child's progress, and*
- *other topics related to helping parents work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, or other topics as parents may request.*

PART I

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Colquitt County School System 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 the 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 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 involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- 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 Colquitt County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - A. The Colquitt County Schools District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement plan:
 - a) The Annual Federal Programs Stakeholders Meeting will be held in the spring to allow parents the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan. All parents will be invited to attend.
 - b) Surveys will be made available during the spring of each school year to all parents in order to receive feedback and input regarding the academic program and parent involvement.
2. The Colquitt County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - A. During the review process:

- a) Parents will help make decisions on how funds are allocated for parental involvement activities;
 - b) A parent meeting will be held in the spring of 2015 to review the Consolidated LEA's Implementation Plan, to evaluate its effectiveness for FY15, and make suggestions for FY16.
 - c) A parent meeting will be held in the spring of 2015 to review the district's parent involvement plan and to evaluate its effectiveness for FY15 and make suggestions for FY16.
 - d) Schools will host parent meetings and provide opportunities for parents to provide input into the schools' parent involvement plans, compacts, and Schoolwide program plans.
 - e) Surveys will be made available during the spring of each school year to all parents in order to receive feedback and input regarding the academic program and parent involvement.
 - f) During the meeting, attendees will help with the identification of barriers for parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English and literacy proficiency; and of any racial or ethnic minority.
- B. The District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy will be available at each Title I school and comments will be gathered on the policy during the first semester of each school year, prior to approval by the district. Upon approval, the written policy will be distributed to each school and will be posted on the districts Title I website.
3. The Colquitt County School System 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:
- A. The Colquitt County Office of Federal Programs will offer technical assistance to the Title I schools:
 - a) The Federal Programs Director and/or Parent Involvement Director will provide professional learning to principals at monthly principals' meetings and to school level parent engagement coordinators at scheduled meetings
 - b) The Federal Programs Director/Parent Involvement Director will coordinate training for principals and school personnel regarding the review/revision process for developing school-based parent involvement plans.
 - c) The Federal Programs Director and/or Parent Involvement Director will provide technical assistance during on-site visits meetings with school parent engagement coordinators and via email or phone conferences.
 - B. Colquitt County Schools will, with the assistance of Title I schools and parents, educate its teachers, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners and in how to implement parent programs that build ties between parents and schools by:
 - a) encouraging and supporting parents to more fully participate in the education of their children,

- b) provide professional development for parent involvement coordinators and principals and school staff on working with parents.
 - c) conducting conferences that offer tools to parents that will lead to student success.
4. The Colquitt County School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: The Georgia Department of Education; Bright From the Start; Head Start; Migrant-Title I, Part C; Homeless; by encouraging coordination and joint efforts to involve parent in Colquitt County Schools:
- a) The Colquitt County Pre-K social worker works closely with the parent advocates at Head Start. Head Start provides parental involvement activities periodically and the Colquitt County Pre-K social worker assist in these efforts.
 - b) In addition to the Title I Parental Involvement Program, Colquitt County Schools partners with Bright from the Start to provide services to 28 Pre-K classrooms at 10 different school sites across the system. Colquitt County Schools has the capacity to serve 616 Pre-K students. An on-site orientation for families is provided within the first 20 working days of commencement of Pre-K services for children. During the family orientation, parents receive written information concerning eligibility requirements, the school calendar, transportation and meals, the instructional program, the Pre-K Parent newsletters, and developing a home/school partnership. Parents are encouraged to volunteer their time, talents, and experiences in the classroom. Parent meetings are conducted throughout the school year to keep parents informed. Pre-K teachers conduct a minimum of two required conferences with parents/guardians during the school year, during which the teacher shares each child's performance on the Georgia Early Learning Developmental Standards. Georgia's Pre-K Child Assessment information is reviewed with parents during these conferences.
 - c) When practical, the Colquitt County School System will coordinate and integrate parent involvement with other programs such as Migrant and Homeless.
5. The Colquitt County School System 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.
- a) Annually, schools will survey parents to establish the effectiveness and appropriateness of the parent involvement policy. Areas to be evaluated will include identifying barriers to parent participation such as low income, disabilities, limited literacy, or other racial or ethnic considerations. The findings of this evaluation will be used to design strategies for school improvement, help develop the CLIP, and, if

necessary, revise the LEA/school-parent involvement policies. Schools will complete a parental involvement needs assessment for evaluation purposes to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses.

- b) The Colquitt County School System will conduct several meetings with parents and school staff to review the parent involvement policy
 - c) At the end of the school year, the System Parent Involvement Committee, composed of parent volunteers and school parent involvement coordinators, will review and evaluate all suggestions, assessments, surveys, and other input concerning parent involvement policies and parental involvement programs. This committee will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise the school system parental involvement policies.
6. The Colquitt County School System 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:
- A. The 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:
 - a) The State's academic content standards:
The Common Core Performance Standards will be used in the LEA. Parents will be made aware of these standards and at what level their child is expected to perform to meet the state standards. Parents may also access information about standards and student performance via the Internet at our website.
 - b) The State's student academic achievement standards:
Colquitt County parents are notified of the state's academic content standards and student's academic achievement standards through school newsletters, school and system websites, annual Title I Parent Information Night, parent/teacher conferences, etc. During the conference, parents are informed of achievement standards, testing requirements, student's progress, and how to monitor and work with their child.
 - c) The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments:
Parents will be provided information concerning the results of CCRPI and school performance profiles, individual student assessment results and interpretation of those results, a description and explanation of the school curriculum and the assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet.
 - B. The 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:
 - a) Meetings will be held at each school to involve and educate parents. The topics for these meetings will be determined by Title I required expectations,

activities outlined in the School Improvement Plan, student academic achievement needs, and parent requests.

- b) The LEA, along with the schools, will provide the following events and strategies to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement:

- Open House
- Test Data and Analysis
- Georgia Common Core Performance Standards
- Annual Title I Information/Curriculum Night
- Suggested Workshops
- Technology Workshops for Parent Portals and website
- Monthly "Parent Involvement Tips" Flyer

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff on 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:

- a) Encouraging parents to more fully participate in the education of their children.
- b) Provide professional development and training for school parent engagement coordinators on developing strategies that promote parent engagement and involvement.
- c) Each school will develop, with input all stakeholders, a compact, which will outline how the school, parents and students will work together, as equal partners, towards student academic success. The compact will include strategies to meet specific academic achievement goals which will call for specific actions to be taken by the school, the family and the student.
- d) Each school will develop, with input from all stakeholders, a parent involvement policy that will outline the implementation of actions and strategies to ensure a partnership for the purpose of student success.

- D. The 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:

- a) Each school will work with Pre-K programs and, when possible, other day care programs to foster a smooth transition to Kindergarten. Activities will include information on opportunities and programs that are shared and a walk-through at the school. Each school will offer a Kindergarten transition meeting for parents of up-coming Kindergarten students. The Parent Involvement Director and school Parent Engagement Coordinator will support these meetings by providing necessary information for the meetings and will be available to serve in presenting to parents if requested.

- b) Each school will have a designated Parent Resource Center, where information, materials and academic activities may be easily accessed by parents. Parents will have input, through the Annual Title I survey and feedback opportunities, to share ideas and requests that would enrich the parent resource center. Parents will be made aware of the parent resource center through a variety of ways which may include open house, newsletters, and signage indicating the location of the parent resource center.

- E. The 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:
 - a) Announcements, information and invitations to parent engagement opportunities will be shared in multiple ways including, but not limited to flyers, newsletters, One-Call-Now system, school marquees and website postings.
 - b) The district has two translators who are available to translate information.
 - c) When feasible, information in newsletters, bulletins and phone calls will be presented in parent-friendly language.

- F. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent through:
 - a) The annual Title I Survey (program evaluation) and designated LEA school planning meetings, taking place in the spring
 - b) All parents/guardians will be notified of these meetings through phone calls, school newsletters, invitations and school/district websites.
 - c) Parents will have the opportunity to request specific resources and materials, in keeping with Title I A guidelines.

- G. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request:
 - a) All feedback opportunities will provide parents the option to make request for specific parent involvement activities or topic presentations.
 - b) The Parent Involvement Director will provide contact information on the Title I website for parents to access to make request, and all requests that align with Title I requirements will be met.

PART III.

DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

NOTE: The LEA parental involvement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system

to support their children's academic achievement, such as 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