



Rome City Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2021-2022

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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.
- (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 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Rome City School District (RCS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe RCS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The RCS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required

school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

During the annual Federal Programs Stakeholder Meeting in April, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2021-2022 school year. The district sent an email to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used its Parent Input Meeting to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or at your child's school. All feedback received by May 31st was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites. The policy will be distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and it is available in the schools' and district office. Continual feedback is welcomed through the forms or by contacting the school or district office.

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and schools' FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The RCS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY22 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the Rome City School district will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. Priority will be given to the schools with the highest needs. 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. The funds reserved by the district will be utilized to support resources that help

improve communication with parents and schools becoming more welcoming will be the focus again this year. The district will reserve an additional amount of Title I funds to support a district Family Engagement Coordinator and resources to remove barriers to parent and family engagement.

Each Title I school will host an annual Parent Input Meeting in the spring for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Feedback forms and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, 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 attend two meeting 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.

Annual Federal Stakeholders Meeting ~ April 2022

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Rome City School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2022-2023 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

Parent Input Meetings ~ May 2022

During this month, each Title I school will be hosting a meeting for parents and family members to participate in information and feedback sessions to review the school improvement 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 and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the School Improvement Meetings will also be made available on the school and district websites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will be available in January and will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings?

Please visit www.rcs.rome.ga.us/page/447

to review the meeting documents and minutes.

Building Capacity

Rome City Schools will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I Schools, families, and community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

Of Parents - RCS will work as a district and through its Title 1 schools to provide assistance to parents to understand state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title 1 program. RCS will provide training 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 will be posted on the district and school websites and shared through the district and school calendars.

The RCS District will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and parent conference dates to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title 1 schools for families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), technology and media specialists will partner with Title 1 schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school and on the district and school websites.

RCS has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council composed of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on the council. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting materials and feedback opportunities for council and other district meetings on the website to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

RCS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal or 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 Transition Meetings so parents may receive information and training to help prepare them and their children for Kindergarten. RCS will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

RCS will coordinate with schools and the district PAC to remove identified barriers of timely communication, childcare, and transportation so that all parents and families can attend training and meetings.

Of School Staff - RCS will train principals and parent mentors monthly so that they may learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. Additionally, two annual trainings will be conducted with faculty and staff of each Title 1 schools, providing resources and information catered to the results of the parent surveys.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is 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' preferred language, where applicable, providing interpreters at parent meetings, training, and events. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable and with the extent of Google Translate. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, RCS 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 and the Parent Input Meetings.

Beginning in January, each Title I school will send home a survey and text message the link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete.

In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the Parent Input Meeting to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

RCS District will use the findings from the school input meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support 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

Annual Parent Survey

January -February 2022

Parent Input Meeting

May 2022 - Local school sites

Federal Stakeholders Feedback Meeting

April 2022 - RCS College and Career Academy

Adoption

This district wide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual federal programs stakeholder meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Rome City School School District on July 1, 2021, and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during October 1, 2021.