



TAYLOR COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent & Family Engagement Policy

2021 – 2022

Revised June 24, 2021

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 & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Taylor County School District (TCSD) 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 TCSD'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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (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. Consistent with Section 1116, the TCSD 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 District Comprehensive Local Improvement plan (CLIP) and Family Engagement Parent Input meetings in Spring 2021, 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 posted in the local newspaper a letter to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website, Marquee as well as the school news via email. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used its Parent Input Review and Revision Meetings 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 by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received was included with the policy for the 2021-2022 school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy will be posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.

23 Mulberry Street
Butler, GA 31006
(478)862-5224

STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS

The District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator 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 Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator to help assist them in their efforts to improve and strengthen family engagement within their schools.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement outreach prevention 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.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Taylor County School District will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2021-2022 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the TCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to 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.

Each Title I school will host annual Parent Input Meetings by the last day of school for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards 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.

If you have any suggestions, please contact Teresa Davis, District Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator at davis.teresa@taylorboe.org

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 State of the District meeting.

This plan was revised by the Taylor County School District on June 24, 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 on or before October 29, 2021.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PARENT CONSULTATION

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 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 District Parent Input Meetings: February – March 2022

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Taylor County School District as well as review and provide input to both the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be shared via local news media to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding these meetings on the school district website.

Annual School-level Parent Input Meetings: March - May 2022

During the months of March-May, each Title I school will provide a minimum of two opportunities for input from parents and family members to discuss and review the school's parent and family engagement plans, as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for staff or parent programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home in a variety of formats, including an announcement in the Taylor County News notifying parents of the date and time of these meetings.

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 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 taylorcountyschools.org to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.**

BUILDING CAPACITY

The Taylor County School District will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and the community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement and ensuring strong and effective engagement of parents and family members. To develop capacity for this support, the Taylor School District will provide technical assistance and guidance to schools as they carry out their parent and family engagement initiatives. Additionally, the district will seek input from parents and family members through the use of the Annual Parent Survey and Annual Parent Input meetings. Data collected from these will be provided to schools so that it can be used to help guide future parent and family engagement initiatives.

OF PARENTS

Taylor County School District will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district will support the Title I schools as they provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, information regarding the Title I program, the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students-including alternative forms of assessment

Taylor County School District will collaborate with schools to ensure school websites contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those 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), the TCSD technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

Taylor County School District 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. The Primary school will host Kindergarten Orientation so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten.

OF SCHOOL STAFF

Each quarter, the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will provide principals guidance to assist with building capacity of the staff within their school. Principals will use this information to conduct opportunities for staff to learn and discuss strategies for increasing family engagement, improving school-family communication, building ties with parents and the community, as well as ways of creating welcoming environments.

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' native language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events/meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, the Taylor County School District 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 Spring Parent Input Meetings.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey, and post on the school student information system and website a 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 Spring Parent Input Meetings 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.

The TCSD will use the findings from the 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.