



**Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
Marion County
School Year 2022-2023
*Revision Date 6/22/2022***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Marion 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.

The Marion County School District 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 ESEA.
- 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 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 definition of parental involvement 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:

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) 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 ESEA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Marion County School District (MCSD) 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 paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- A.) Provide parents access to the information in the district's parental involvement policy and plan through the district website*
- B.) Provide input forms on the district website to all parents to involve them in the development of the district policy, plan, and use of parent involvement funds*
- C.) Provide input forms mid-year and end-of-year on the school newsletters sent home to all parents to involve them in the development of the district policy, plan, and use of parent involvement funds*
- D.) Engage in open communication about the plan during parent meetings and school advisory meetings*
- E.) Provide all information in a language and form that parents can understand to the extent feasible and appropriate*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Marion County School District 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 involvement 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.) Parent interest surveys will be distributed to all parents to assist in activity planning*
- B.) District will collaborate with principals, leadership teams, school parent involvement coordinators, staff, and parents to plan and implement effective parent involvement activities*
- C.) Activities will be planned at the school or a central location convenient for parent*

- attendance and when possible to accommodate a variety of work schedules*
- D.) District will provide a budget for the parent coordinator to use in the implementation of parent activities and programs*
- E.) District and district parent coordinator will provide necessary support in planning and implementation of parent activities to include childcare and translators when needed*

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Marion County School District 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 and 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.) District will conduct annual evaluations and request feedback through multiple methods including, but not limited to: surveys (paper and electronic), focus groups, and open discussion meetings*
- B.) Evaluation surveys will be developed and discussions will be held to include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, limited literacy or from diverse backgrounds*
- C.) Findings will be used in subsequent parental involvement activity planning meetings and involvement plan and policy revision/improvement meetings to plan more effective activities and provide an improved involvement policy if necessary*
- D.) Survey results will also be shared with advisory committees, leadership teams, principals, staff and school councils to receive input for future planning*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Marion County School District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- A.) District policy and plan will be located on the school website and Parent Resource Center for review*
- B.) Summary of the policy and plan will be sent home to parents during the first week of school and will include how Title I funds for parent involvement are used*
- C.) The district will hold an annual meeting for parents to discuss the review and implementation of the plan and how funds for parent involvement activities will be used*

D.) Parent input will be solicited from:

- *Parents*
- *School Councils*
- *Parent Advisory Committees*
- *Community Members*

E.) A translator will be available when possible and information will be provided in a language and form that parents can understand to the extent feasible and appropriate

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Marion County School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: [Pre-Kindergarten, HeadStart, Adult Education Programs, Family Connections, EIP] that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- A. Pre-K parent transition meeting at end of school year for parents of students transitioning to kindergarten*
- B.) HeadStart students and parents visit school at year end for students transitioning to kindergarten*
- C) District parent involvement coordinator attend annual advisory meeting at HeadStart to collaborate efforts to improve student achievement and parent education and involvement*
- D.) Provide/plan parent involvement activities in coordination with Family Connection, and Adult Education parent activities*
- E.) Collaborate and keep open line of communication with above programs in order to promote parent participation in all planned activities*
- F.) District parent involvement coordinator will provide brochures, books, and other information for schools to display in a parent resource center*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Marion County School District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education 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:

- The challenging State academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators
- 1.) State standards and assessments information will be provided to parents during open house events to include information on the Georgia Department of Education website*
 - 2.) Links to standards and assessment information will be included on the district*

website

- 3.) *District parent involvement coordinator will work with school counselors to provide information to parents on topics such as how to hold effective parent conferences and helping your child with homework*
- 4.) *District parent involvement coordinator will work with school counselors to ensure parent information is distributed in a variety of methods to include, but not limited to newspaper articles, school newsletters, school website, and parent meetings*
- 5.) *Individual test score results will be provided to parents*
- 6.) *System and school testing results will be analyzed and published in the local newspaper and on the website*
- 7.) *School status letters will be mailed (if required) to every parent twice a year*
- 8.) *School status will be posted on the school website and sent home to all parents on school newsletters*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Marion 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:

- 1.) *District will establish requirements and work with school principals to co-facilitate their initial Title I parent meetings*
- 2.) *District Parent Involvement Coordinator will ensure that school coordinators attend annual PIC conference to receive updated, current information to share with school administration, staff, and parents*
- 3.) *District will provide yearly parent involvement training/updates to all administration, faculty, and staff during the annual pre-planning training*
- 4.) *District will provide professional learning opportunities to administrators, faculty, and staff through the use of the four parent engagement professional development modules on the GaDOE website*

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support the partnership between school and home, assistance will be provided to parents in the following ways:

- *Newsletters from schools will be distributed weekly or monthly*
- *Free parent workshops will be provided based on parent input*
- *Flexible meeting times for parent meetings and workshops*
- *Childcare for workshops*
- *Transportation for parent conferences for those requiring*
- *Home visits*
- *Parent involvement activity calendars distributed monthly at the elementary school*
- *Counselor spotlights in newspaper weekly*
- *Recruitment of parents to serve on committees*
- *Workshop locations central to all parents*
- *Opportunities for parents to visit the school—breakfast/lunch with child, academic family nights, reading family nights, book fairs, parent workshops, etc.*

- *PowerSchool access for parents for middle and high school*
- *Parent contact-via phone, emails, conferences, notes*
- *System and school websites*
- *Special school programs to meet specific student needs*

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by:

Meetings involving stakeholders

Surveys

Letter sent home informing and inviting parents to meeting

Newspaper article

Website posting

Twitter

This policy was adopted by the Marion County School District on 6/22/2022 and will be in effect for the period of the 2022-2023 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2022.


(Signature of Authorized Official)

6/22/2022
(Date)