



Title I Parent & Family Engagement Plan 2022-2023

Mission

The Mission of Decatur City Schools is to provide an innovative learning community committed to academic excellence and meeting the unique needs of every individual.

Beliefs

We believe that:

- All students can learn.
- A safe and supportive learning environment promotes student achievement.
- The collaboration of teachers, administrators, parents, and the school community is essential to the advancement of the school system's mission and goals.
- Each student is a valued individual with unique physical, social, emotional, and intellectual needs.
- The commitment to continuous improvement is expected of all stakeholders of the school system.
- Diversity enriches our school system through the recognition of the contributions of a variety of ideas, values, and cultures.
- Our educational programs must prepare students to become contributing members in a rapidly changing, diverse, and global society.
- Quality schools make a vibrant community.

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PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS AND OBJECTIVES

The **Decatur City School District** agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of all parents and families in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents 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 of ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116(2)(d) of 2015 of the ESSA.

- The school district will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan developed under section 1112 of the ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental 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, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESSA of 2015 in an understandable and uniform format and, 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 and families 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 engage the parents and families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how at least one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved shall go directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental engagement, and expects that its Title Schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring –
 - (A) that parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
 - (B) that parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
 - (C) that parents and families 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 ESSA.

PART II DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

- 1. The Decatur City School District will take the following actions to engage parents and families in the joint development of its district wide parental engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:**

The district parent and family engagement specialist will develop a committee comprised of two parent representatives from each of the Title I schools. Parents will sign a sheet stating attendance, an agenda will be given to each parent, and minutes of the meeting will be taken by a member of the committee. The previous year's policy will be disseminated to parents and families for review before the committee meets. At the meeting, the plan will be reviewed, discussed and evaluated. Changes will be made according to the committee's recommendations, including parent surveys, each year.

- 2. The Decatur City School District will take the following actions to engage parents and families in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESSA:**

Every Title I school has a Parent and Family Advisory Committee. Each year, this committee meets to evaluate, make recommendations, and approve the local Title I Parent Involvement Plan. When preparing the local Title I Plan each year, at least one parent is included on every local school team. This parent(s) is given the opportunity to provide information and suggestions representing parents. All meetings are documented by sign-in sheets, agendas, and meeting notes.

- 3. The Decatur City School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:**

The local parent liaison will assist each school with implementing quality parent and family engagement programs by:

- Meeting with the local Title I committee annually and Parent Advisory Committee at least twice annually.
- Providing workshops on assessment data as requested.
- Providing resources to increase family engagement in the local schools.
- Coordinating district-wide Title I family literacy education training and family math education training. Parents attending literacy/math trainings will be given resources to take home listing specific activities they can do with their child.
- Distributing a parent survey for each school, and calculate the results. These results will be used by local school committees and by the District Advisory Committee. Parents will also be notified of these results. Information will be provided to parents based on these surveys.

- 4. The Decatur City School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with parental engagement strategies under the following other programs: School Based Preschoolers, Office of School Readiness, and Head Start, by:**

- Providing the same opportunities for parents of school-based preschoolers that are provided to other parents in the local school.
- Provide, upon request, information and presenter for meetings.
- Collaborate with presenters from the above agencies to provide parenting resources based on identified needs.

- 5. The Decatur City School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents and families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of their parent and family engagement 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 engagement activities (with particular**

attention to parents and families 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 parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement, and revise, if necessary (and with the collaboration of parents and families) its parent and family engagement policies.

- Each year the District Parent Engagement Specialist will form a committee comprised of two parent representatives from each Title I school to form the District Parent Advisory Committee.
- Contact by mail, email, or phone will be made to secure the participants of the committee.
- An invitation will be sent, along with a copy of the current District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, to each member before the annual meeting.
- In the meeting, sign in sheets, an agenda, and meeting notes will be kept.
- The plan will be reviewed by all members of the committee during the meeting, and suggestions for revisions will be discussed.
- The revisions will be made and a copy of the Plan will be sent to each committee member.
- The local District Parental Engagement Plan will be available on the Decatur City Schools' web site.
- A listing of possible barriers for parent engagement will be generated by the committee. The district liaison's role will be as a facilitator in this discussion.
- Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, per the Alabama State Department of Education (ALSDE), parent surveys will be completed on the eProve on-line platform. Surveys will be available in a of language that parents and families can understand.

PART III. BUILDING CAPACITY FOR PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

The Decatur City School District will build the schools' and parents' and families' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and families, and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically 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 the following:

- The State's College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS)
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- The requirements of Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators

The aforementioned information will be disseminated through:

- An annual meeting of parents and families of Title I students

- Workshops will be provided for parents throughout the year on various, relevant topics. These workshops are based on specific school needs and parent survey results.
- Schools offer a Meet the Teacher Night or Open House to discuss classroom policies, teacher conferences, and strategies to help their children at home.
- Progress updates will be sent home to parents. These updates will give information related to the CCRS for every subject for the designated period of time.
- Information will be provided about progress monitoring and how it occurs throughout the year.

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents and families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement, by:

- Developing the local school parent resource centers based on suggestions from local parents (informal conversations, parent needs survey, etc)
- Conducting parent activities that include family literacy, math, and testing events in schools
- Providing digital devices and virtual learning support for families
- Receiving assistance from school counselors in locating resources to address family needs

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents and families, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent and family programs and build ties between parents and families and schools, by:

- Each year, Title I schools ask their parents to complete a survey. This survey includes a space in which parents and families can write: workshop topics that they would like to see offered; a preferred time of day to participate in workshops and; indicate how the school system can effectively plan family engagement activities.
- The district liaison provides materials to principals about various parent and family topics.
- Materials/resources/information about various parent engagement topics are provided to PTOs or other parent and family groups as requested.

D. The school district will, to the extent reasonable and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Head Start, public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent and family resource centers, that encourage and support parents and families in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Each school will make family resources available in a location that can be readily accessed by parents and family members. Materials provided in this area can include pamphlets, books, videos, and other media on parenting topics such as: appropriate discipline; ADHD; social-emotional learning; the needs of various learners such as gifted and students with special needs and; other topics that families list of interest on the parent and family survey.


- Preschool students housed in local school buildings will be included in all activities involving parents and families as parents of students enrolled in school are.
- There are Head Start sites in some of the Title I communities in our county. The local schools close to these sites will include students and families, to the extent feasible, in parent engagement activities.

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 and families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the family can understand:

- Parent and family surveys are made available in both English and Spanish.
- Information may be translated as needed by the Decatur City Schools' ESL Department.
- Interpreters are provided for meetings as needed for parents that do not speak English.
- Provide, to the extent practicable, parent resource materials in a language parents can understand.

PART IV. APPROVAL

This LEA's Parental and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agendas and sign-in sheets from the Decatur City Schools' Federal Programs Advisory Council. The LEA will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.


 PLAN APPROVED BY (Person or Entity)


 DATE OF APPROVAL