



TITLE

Allendale County Schools



ACS

PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY

2020-21

POLICY INVOLVEMENT

Recognizing that the parent is the child's first teacher, Allendale County Schools (ACS) encourages parental involvement at all levels of its operations. Parents are considered vital to the strategic and school-wide planning process and to its successful implementation. ACS abides by Title I regulations for parent involvement which include:

SHARED RESPONSIBILITY: SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The School-Parent Compact, jointly developed with, agreed upon with, and distributed to all parents, will describe how parents, students, and the entire school staff will share in the responsibility for high student achievement. A team of people—including parents, community members, school, and district administrators as well as school faculty and staff—will annually review the School-Parent Compact. A meeting will be held at the beginning of the year to review the School-Parent Compact. Meetings will be held during School Improvement Council (SIC), Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and/or open house.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the parents, community, and school to improve student achievement, we will:

1. Assist parents in understanding South Carolina's academic and achievement standards by disseminating pamphlets, handouts, conducting parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, and open houses.
2. Communicate and monitor a child's progress by teacher reports, interim reports, report cards, Individual Education Plan (IEP) meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and dissemination of formative and summative assessment data (i.e., I-READY DIAGNOSTIC, MASTERYCONNECT/TE21, SCREADY and SCPASS, EOCEP data).
3. Send information related to school and programs, in-person and virtual meetings, and other activities to parents in a format and language they can understand through newsletters, Parent meetings, SIC meetings, Parent/Community Advisory Groups, School Messenger, school webpages, and the district's website.
4. Provide opportunities for parents to communicate with the schools through open door policies, surveys, suggestion boxes, designated times to meet with the principal and/or teachers, and parenting workshops.

5. Provide other activities to promote parental involvement through National Education Week, Field Day, Teacher Appreciation Week, parenting workshops, as well as volunteer and mentoring programs.

PARENTS' FULL PARTICIPATION

1. Convening an annual meeting at a convenient time to inform parents of the school's participation in the Title I program, the requirements of Title I law, and their right to be involved. Schools may use open house, meet and greet, or other beginning of the year gatherings as an opportunity to provide information to parents.
2. Offering a flexible number of meetings and parent trainings at convenient times for parents to participate, give suggestions, and take part in decisions regarding the instructional program of the school. SIC and other Parent Meetings give schools the flexibility needed to offer meetings at convenient times and in alternative ways such as virtual meetings for parents to give their input on Title I programs.
3. Parents are involved in an "organized, ongoing, and timely way" in the planning, review, and improvement of the Parent Involvement Policy and Title I programs. Parents will receive timely information about Title I programs. The Parent Involvement Policy will be reviewed throughout the year as SIC, Title I, and other parent groups meet. Changes to the program, new information as well as review and evaluation of the policy and programs will be included as an agenda item for these meetings.
4. Giving opportunity for parents to submit comments on the plan and the school-wide programs if it is not satisfactory to participating parents. Schools use suggestion boxes and surveys to provide opportunity for parent comments.
5. Sharing jointly in the development of the school-parent compact - Parents share in the development of the compact during a series of meetings. Agendas and sign-in sheets are maintained as record of all meetings.
6. Supporting a partnership among the school, community, and parents to improve student academic achievement - Schools engage business partners, the faith-based community, county and city governments, local media, and etcetera to support the academic program.
7. Providing assistance to parents in understanding such topics as the state's academic standards, assessments, monitoring student progress, and working with their children - Schools provide extensive assistance to parents in a variety of ways including workshops, trainings, and at home activities.
8. Providing full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children in a format, and to the extent practical, in a language such parents understand - Every effort is made to afford all parents the opportunity to participate in school activities.
9. Providing reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. - Schools make every attempt to meet the needs of parents who make special requests.