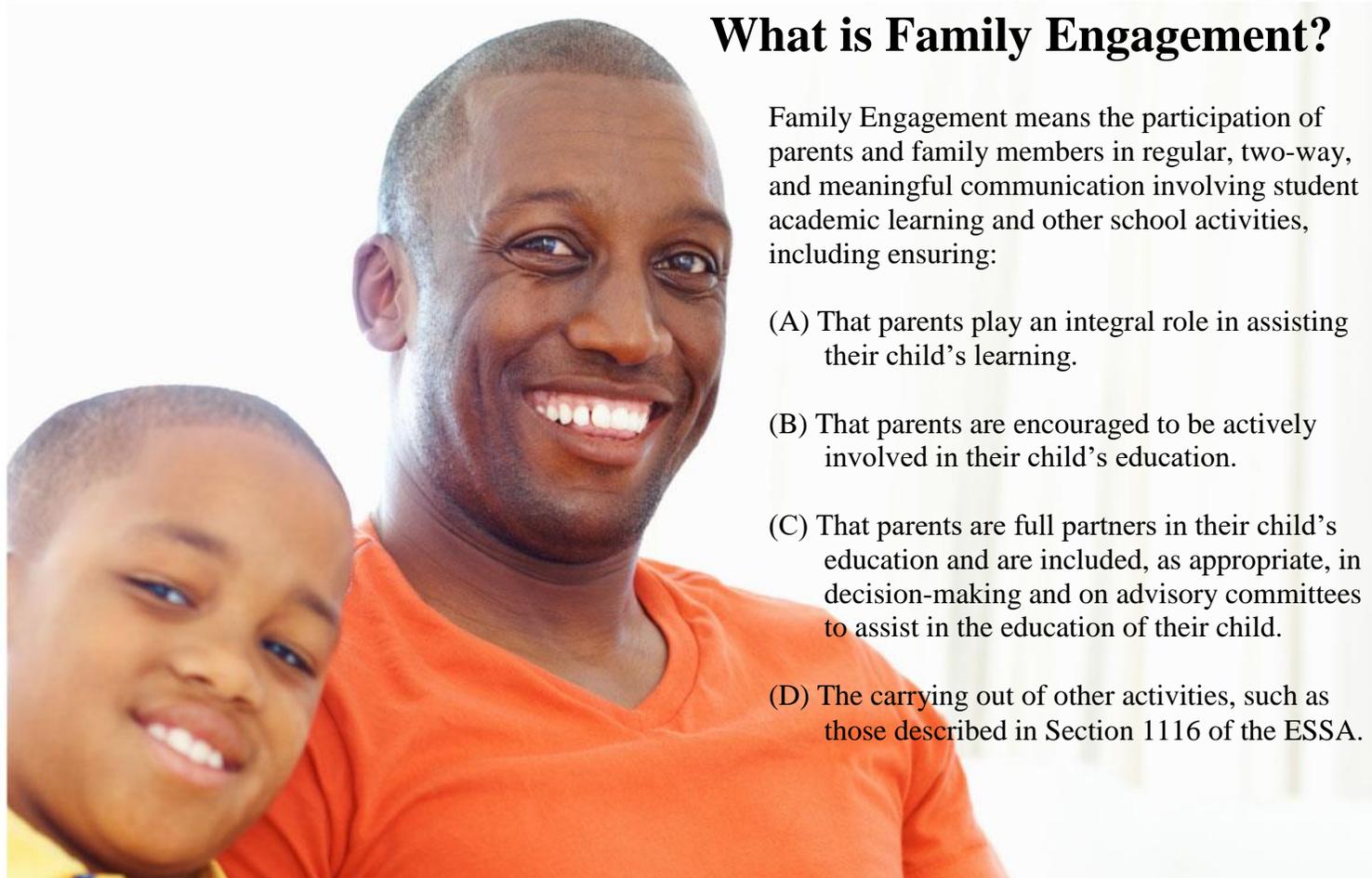


# Taylor County School District

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2019 - 2020  
Revised May 28, 2019  
23 Mulberry Street  
Butler, GA 31006  
taylor.schooldesk.net



### 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 ESSA.

### About the Parent and 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 May, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019-2020 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 by June 2019 was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy was 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.

## Strengthening Our School

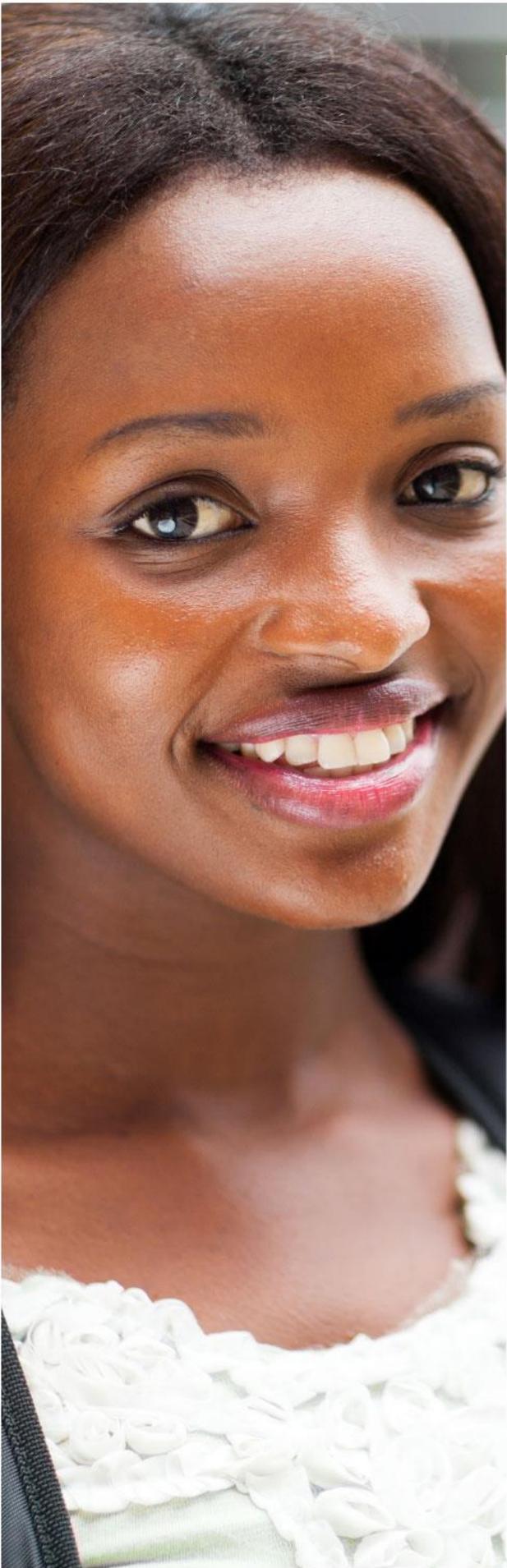
This year, the District Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications 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's FEC will hold trainings with its Title I schools' faculty and staff to review family engagement plans and activities.

## Reservation of Funds

The TCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2019-2020 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 an annual Parent Input Meetings by May 20th for parents to provide suggestions 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 FEC 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 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 2020**

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 Plan 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 2020**

During the months of March-May, each Title I school will host two Parent Input Meetings for parents and family members to discussion and review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies, and provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home in a variety of formats, including an announcement on each school's website 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 [www.taylor.schooldesk.net](http://www.taylor.schooldesk.net) to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.**

## **Building Capacity**

The FEC 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, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs such as: Quarterly Newsletters, Parent University Workshops, Quarterly Family Nights, Annual Parent Surveys and District Parent & Family Engagement Forums.

***Of Parents*** – The FEC will work through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The FEC will provide classes 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 website and shared through each Title I school's newsletter.

The FEC will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will 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.

The FEC 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 FEC will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

***Of School Staff*** - The FEC will conduct three trainings during the school year for faculty and staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. The FEC will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

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 providing 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 FEC 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 School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey, and post on 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 School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs 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 school forums 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 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.

## Mark Your Calendars

### Welcoming Schools Training

July 29, 2019  
District Auditorium

### Annual Parent Survey

April 6 - 17, 2020

### Parent Input Meetings

March - May 2020  
Local school site

### District Parent Input Meetings

February - March 2020  
Taylor County School Board Office

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan 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 May 28, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019 - 2020 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 September 1, 2019.

