

SY 2019--2020
Revised May 28, 2019

Ware County School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Due to school closures during the 2019-2020 school year, this plan remains active for the 2020-2021 school year. Revisions and updates will be made and distributed to families as changes are made with our goal of having a new and updated compliance document for the 2021-2022 school year.

What is Family Engagement?

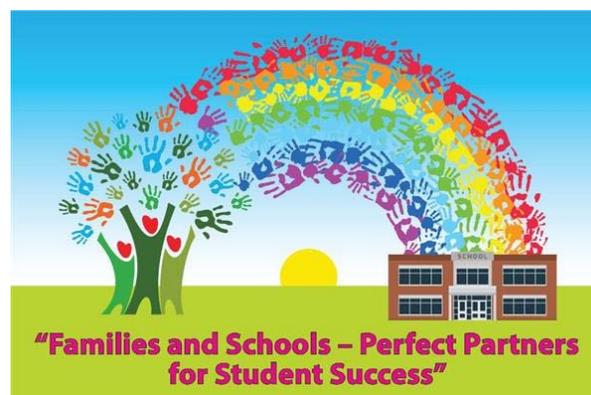
Ware County School District (WCSD) believes that family engagement involves the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. We believe in the following statements.

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- 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.
- Other Activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the WCSD developed this parent involvement plan to establish the district's expectations for parent involvement and guide the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. All schools in WCSD are Title I. This plan describes WCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity of schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and like 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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the main Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. WCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of federal law, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact.



Jointly Developed and Revised

In the spring, all stakeholders are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan. Using Thrillshare, all parents are informed and invited to the face-to-face meeting. Also, a meeting notice is on the district website. During the meeting, the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and WCSD Parent Engagement Plan are reviewed. Stakeholders give input on current practices and provide suggestions or ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2019-2020 school year.

After the final revision, the plan becomes part of the CLIP. Parents are welcome to offer comments, ideas, and feedback at any time by submitting written comments to their child's school or the district office by emailing smixon@ware.k12.ga.us or calling Sonya Mixon at 912-283-8656. All input received by May 27, 2019, is considered when revising this plan.

The district shares the plan by posting on the district and school websites, placing in parent resource centers or front offices, disseminating during the annual Title I meetings, and emailing or texting the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district Federal Programs Coordinator (FPC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FPC to help improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district FPC will provide periodic training to representatives from the Title I schools.

Additionally, the FPC meets with principals or school representatives to review parent and family engagement requirements, discuss opportunities for family engagement activities, and activities for the remainder of the school year.



Reservation of Funds

The WCSD reserves one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the WCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved for 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 individual school needs and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school hosts a Stakeholder Input Meeting in the spring for parents to provide suggestions on using family engagement funds in the upcoming year. Comments from meetings are considered when determining areas of need for the next school year and family engagement set-aside spending.

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 one meeting and participate in a survey to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

Annual Title I Meeting

The Stakeholder Input Meeting provides parents an opportunity to hear the latest updates from the WCSD, provide input for the 2019-20 CLIP, and participate in revising the district parent and family engagement plan. Parents receive invitations by email or text using Thrillshare, and the meeting notice is on the WCSD website.

Stakeholder Input Meetings

Each Title I school will host a meeting in the spring for parents and stakeholders to participate in revising the school's parent and family engagement plan, programs, and budget, and participate in the development of the schoolwide plan. Each Title I school sends invitations home and uses Thrillshare to notify parents about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the School Improvement The school websites and marquees provide information about the meeting.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs is one purpose of the annual district survey. The survey contains questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.



Unable to attend these meetings? Email comments and suggestions to your school principal or Dean Moody at dmoody@ware.k12.ga.us

Building Capacity

The WCSD assists schools in building partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community to develop mutual support for student achievement.

Of Parents – WCSD works through its Title I schools to assist families in understanding academic expectations for students learning and progress. Families receive specific information about the state's challenging academic standards, local and state assessments, alternative assessments, understanding and using the online student information system, other digital resources, and copyright piracy. Notifications about these opportunities are posted on the school websites, shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

Also, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and software programs for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials, including translations, are available at all Title I schools.



The WCSD supports Title I schools in coordinating and integrating the district family engagement activities, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as the local preschool program regardless of funding. Schools host transition events for rising kindergarten students, sixth-grade students, and ninth-grade students. Transition events help prepare families and students for the next life state.

Of School Staff - The WCSD conducts periodic training with representatives from all schools to promote and increase family engagement, school-family communication, and community ties. Attendees use the information to train faculty and staff at each school.

To ensure that information related to the district and school parent engagement programs and activities are available to all parents, each Title I school posts the plan on the school website and sends a copy home with each student. The information is in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, each school trains staff on the capacities for parent engagement. Documents and information posted on the school and district websites are translated to the extent practicable. Information is provided to parents and families using Thrillshare, school and district websites, local news media, and other forms of social media.

Parent and Family Engagement Plan Evaluation

In the spring of each year, the WCSD conducts an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and Stakeholder Input Meeting.

Each Title I school sends a Thrillshare message with a link to the survey located on the school website, students take home invitations to participate, and reminders are on the school marquee. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school holds a Stakeholder Input Meeting to facilitate group discussions on the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The WCSD uses the findings from the input meetings, and the survey results to choose strategies that improve family engagement, remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise the parent and family engagement plans.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Federal Programs Coordinator (FPC) communicates and collaborates with the Office for Student 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

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of students participating in Title I Part A programs, as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, stakeholders, and school and district personnel at the Spring Stakeholder Input meetings. This plan was adopted by the WCSD on May 28, 2019, and will be in effect for the 2019 – 2020 school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2019.