



Thomasville City Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2020 - 2021
Revised June 25, 2020
404 North Broad Street
Thomasville, Georgia 31792
www.tcitys.org
(229) 225 - 2600



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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Thomasville City 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 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. 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 federal law and each include, as a component, a school – parent compact.

- Thomasville City Schools will have programs, activities, and procedures for engagement of parents and family members in all 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 116(d) of the ESSA.
- 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.

Jointly Developed

During the district meetings in May, the Parent Advisory Committee and all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district policy for the 2020 - 2021 school year. The district used flyers, telephone message systems and district/school websites, informing parents about the meetings. In addition, three community sessions are held at various times and dates to view and give feedback on the CLIP and the FY21 Parent Engagement Policy.

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's website or by submitting written comments to their child's school.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites, printed in Parent/Student handbooks each year, and made available in the schools' Parent Resource Centers.

Technical Assistance



This year, the district Parental Engagement Coordinator (PEC) 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 being implemented. Title I schools will receive regular notifications and resources from the district PEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communications and school visits, the PEC will hold monthly district meetings and trainings with Title I schools' principals/administrative teams to review family engagement plans and activities.

ANNUAL EVALAUATION

Thomasville City Schools 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. An annual survey 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 survey 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.

Reservation of Funds

TCS will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY21 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the TCS 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 survey parents, will meet with parents and meet with Parent Advisory Committee for suggestions on how the family engagement set-aside funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Survey results and stakeholder input forms from the meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are essential components 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 the 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.

Fall School Open House Meetings ▪ Fall of 2020

Each Title I school will host a parent meeting at the beginning of the school year to share about Title I and to seek parent input/revisions on School Parent Compacts. These important documents are revised annually by students, parents, and teachers together. They are reviewed throughout the year, as well.

Annual Title I Meetings ▪ Fall of 2020

Each Title I school will host an annual Title I Meeting prior to November 1st to inform parents about the expectations and guidelines of Title I. The school will address with the parents what it means to be a Title I school. Parents will also be encouraged to ask questions and voice any concerns they have pertaining to Title I.

Comprehensive Needs Assessment and District Improvement Forum ▪ Spring of 2020

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from Thomasville City Schools as well as review and provide input into the District Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) which includes the Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2019-2020 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be made available to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school and district websites.

School Improvement Forums ▪ Spring of 2020

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy, as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and family engagement program. Each Title I school will send a flyer home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum.

Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on each Title I school website and in weekly classroom newsletters.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parent and family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parent and family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Building School and Parent Capacity

TCS will work with its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their children's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. Under the district's direction, each Title I school will host a minimum of three parent workshops that are academic in nature. The dates and locations for these workshops will be posted on the school's website, shared through each school's newsletters, sent home as flyers and e-mail/Remind.

TCS will provide helpful parent links on the district website and ensure that the Title I schools' websites contain resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home.

TCS will coordinate and integrate the district parent and family engagement programs with other programs such as: Family Connections, Vashti Center, The Tree House Child Advocacy Center, Footsteps2Brilliance Social Emotional Learning and Raising Highly Capable Kids. We will promote school readiness by collaborating with the Head Start program and other state funded preschool programs in the district as part of a community collaborative that will meet multiple times during the year. TCS will also coordinate with community programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

To ensure that information related to parent programs, meetings and other activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will send home a calendar of events with information for parents at the beginning of the year. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings when requested. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school websites, and other school message systems to post information for parents. TCS will educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners and on implementing programs to build ties between parents and schools. TCS will also provide information for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families. In addition, the school-level Parental Engagement Coordinator will provide opportunities at each Title I school to review and discuss parent and family engagement requirements and initiatives. The district will educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value of parent and family engagement. Parents will actively share ways that ties between parents and the school can be strengthened and sustained.

TCS has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners as part of the PAC.

TCS works hand in hand with community organizations, including faith-based organizations, to share parent and family engagement activities and to increase the knowledge base in our community of the importance of family engagement for our students.



Upcoming Dates:

FOR PARENTS

Monthly Parent Advisory Committee Meetings

Dates posted on school websites

National Parent Engagement Month
November 2020** Check the website
for special ways to get involved!

Annual Parent Survey March-May 2020

District Improvement Plan Forum
May 11 – 9:00 am at BOE
May 12 – 11:00 am at BOE
May 13 – 3:45 pm at BOE

School Improvement Forums
March -May
2021
Presentation of
Approved SIP:
August 2020
BOE

If your schedule does not allow you
to attend the meetings, feel free to
request copies of the minutes by
emailing: samuelm@tcitys.org

FOR SCHOOLS

New School Year Technical Assistance:

July 2020

Principal Meetings
Monthly-Board of Education

Family Liaison Meetings
Monthly-Board of Education

Parent & Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, TCS 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 March, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the 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 obtain input from parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.

TCS will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective parent and 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 Parental Engagement Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with Federal Programs and Student Services as well as other 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 when feasible.

Development

This district parent and family engagement policy 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 district meetings.

Final revisions to this policy were made on June 25, 2020. The policy will be in effect for the 2020 – 2021 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children during the first weeks of school.