WHAT IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

Family Engagement involves the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

• That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
• That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education.
• 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.
• The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).


ABOUT THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, DeKalb County School District (DCSD) receives and uses Title I, Part A funds to establish the district’s expectation for parental involvement and describes how the district will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and it is incorporated into the district plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

DCSD will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

DCSD will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements to the extent practicable, DCSD 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 ESEA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

DCSD will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education if the plan for Title I, Part A, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children.

DCSD is governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

(A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
(B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
(C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

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**DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**VISION**
Inspire our community of learners to achieve educational excellence.

**MISSION**
Ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning.

**MOTTO**
Inspire, Achieve and Excel.

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**Goal Area I: Student Success with Equity and Access**
**Improve student’s mastery of learning standards**

The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Literature End of Grade (EOG) Assessment.

The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Math End of Grade (EOG) Assessment.
The **DeKalb County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under Section 1112 and the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

DCSD believes that input and suggestions from parents/families are critical components of district plans that are developed jointly each year. This year, opportunities for initial input was provided during the Comprehensive Needs Assessment stakeholder meetings held on June 15, 2017. Parents were provided opportunities to be involved in the development and review of the district parental involvement policy, CLIP and Title I School-Wide/Targeted Assistance Plan. Additional provisions for stakeholder input will be offered in at least two ways provided below:

- Parent Surveys with questions about CLIP, District/School Parent Engagement Policy, & Use of Title I Funds
- District and School sponsored Parent Workshops
- Title I Parent and Community Stakeholder Meeting
- District Parent Meetings, Workshops and Trainings
- Communication with parents via the website and various forms of social media

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The **DeKalb County 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 parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

DCSD will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement practices inclusive of school parental involvement plans, school-parent compacts, and all Title I parental involvement requirements through:

- Central Office Support for Parental Involvement – (Title I Director, Assistant Directors, OFP Coordinators, District Parent Liaisons and Administrative Support).
- Five (5) District-Wide Parent Centers that support Parental Engagement/Involvement.
- Local Parent Centers as funded by schools---School Level Parent Liaisons.
- Title I Technical Support and Work Sessions
- District Liaisons and Parent Facilitators building staff capacity in-services/workshops.
- Title I Compliance and Instruction Principal’s Ed- Camp Meeting
- Title I participation in Principal meetings to share Title I updates
ANNUAL EVALUATION

The DeKalb County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement 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 involvement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

DCSD evaluation of the Title I Program will be conducted using multiple strategies that include but not limited to:

- Fund and complete a program evaluation as facilitated by the Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Learning and the Office of Federal Programs.

- Feedback from parents from District-wide and school-level surveys.

- Collection of parent input during district stakeholder and school-level meetings

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The DeKalb County School District will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

DeKalb County School District Title I Office will set-aside not less than one percent (1%) of the district FY18 allocation for family and community engagement to fund the family engagement programs at the district and school level. DCSD will use Title I Reservation of Fund budget in multiple ways that include:

Salaries
District Parent Facilitators

Supplies/ Resources
District-wide Parent Centers
District-wide Parent Workshops
Title I Compliance and Instruction Principal’s Summit

Communication
Translation of Title I Parent Communications and Documents in top 10 languages
Translators for District Parent Meetings (CLIP and Parent Involvement Policy)
Postage for ESSA letters
Other
District-Wide Title I Parent Conference
Parent Facilitator’s Travel and Mileage Reimbursement

DCSD staff will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in completing comprehensive needs assessments and developing adequate budgets that support family & community engagement; address and prioritize needs and engages parents, staff and community collaboratively to maximize student academic achievement.

DCSD Parents will be given opportunities to be involved and provide input (recommendations/suggestions for the use of Title I Reservation of Funds during:
- Title I District Parent and Community Stakeholder Meetings
- Title I School-Level Community Meetings
- District Parent Workshops/Trainings

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The __DeKalb County School District________ will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under other programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

(Describe/List how the district will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families.)

1. Providing support from the Office of Federal Programs (OFP).
2. Providing parents’ access to Parent Centers at the five regional centers and thirty-six school centers.
3. Extending late hours one day a week for Regional Centers to accommodate the needs of the community, parents and stakeholders.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The __DeKalb County School District________ will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The State’s academic content standards
- The State’s student academic achievement standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
The requirements of Title I, Part A
• How to monitor their child’s progress
• How to work with educators

The workshops/events, classes, resources will be provided to support parents in helping their student’s academic success include but are not limited to the following:

1. Title I Parental Involvement Conferences (District and Regional).
2. Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) (Annually).
3. Title I Parental Involvement Policy Meeting (Annually).
4. Parent workshops (e.g., Georgia Milestone, Infinite Campus, etc.)
5. Districtwide Title I Parent Conference.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The _____ DeKalb County School District ________ will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools by:

District and/or schools will build capacity via meetings, workshops, trainings, webinars and resources that will be used to work with parents as equal partners through:

1. Monthly meetings for school administrators/principals and/or designated staff.
2. Professional Learning for Title I funded staff.
3. Title I Compliance & Instruction Principal’s Ed-Camp trainings/meetings.

DCSD will provide training related to increasing parent and family engagement, improving effective school-family communication, creating a welcoming environment, partnering with families to increase student academic achievement, and building relationships with community stakeholders.

Local schools will identify additional staff and parental needs through formal and informal needs assessments. All faculty and staff of Title I schools will receive ongoing training on effective communication strategies with families to build parent capacity.

The Office of Federal Programs staff will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental and family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that effective family and community engagement strategies and activities are being implemented.

Timely communication, school visits for compliance monitoring, resources, and other technical assistance from the district to help improve and strengthen family engagement practices will be continuously provided.

District and school staff will participate in ongoing evidenced based professional development for promoting family engagement and building parent capacity.
ADOPTION

This LEA Title I Family and Community Engagement Plan was reviewed and revised with the input of DeKalb County School District staff, families, and community stakeholders. This policy/plan was adopted by DeKalb County School District on July 25, 2017 and will be in effect for a period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 20, 2017. It will also be available to the community through the school/regional Parent Centers and on the DCSD website.