



**FY21 Parent and Family Engagement Plan  
DeKalb County School District Level  
School Years 2020-2021**

**Revision Date: October 28, 2020**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **DeKalb County School District** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

**The DeKalb County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members 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 and family members of participating children.
- 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 federal law.
- 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 school district's plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, 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.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement 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 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED  
LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**VISION**

To inspire our community of learners to achieve educational excellence.

**MISSION**

To ensure student success, leading to higher education, work, and life-long learning.

**CORE BELIEFS**

We believe:

- In ensuring we meet every student’s academic, social and emotional needs
- In making sure every decision supports quality teaching and learning
- In embracing the cultural diversity of our community as a strength
- In holding everyone accountable for educational excellence

**Goal Area I: Student Success with Equity and Access**

- Improve student mastery of learning standards
- Provide academically rigorous courses and/or pathways
- Increase graduate on rate

**Goal Area II: Stakeholder Engagement and Communication**

- Increase the effectiveness of stakeholder engagement experiences
- Improve opportunities for innovative stakeholder collaboration
- Improve and ensure effective district internal and external communication

**Goal Area III: Staff Effectiveness**

- Recruit highly qualified staff
- Develop high performing staff
- Retain highly effective staff

**Goal Area IV: Culture and Climate**

- Create and maintain a safe, orderly, positive learning environment for all
- Establish and maintain clear and high expectations for excellence for all stakeholders
- Cultivate culturally responsive learning environments for all
- Provide support for social and emotional learning for all

**Goal Area V: Organizational Excellence**

- Ensure excellent financial management
- Ensure efficient use of resources

**Goal Area VI: Facilities**

- Improve and maintain facility conditions
- Ensure that educational facilities meet programmatic needs
- Develop and increase sustainable funding for facilities

## JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **DeKalb County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

Parents will be provided opportunities to be involved in the development and review of the district parent and family engagement policy, Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), and the School Improvement/Title I School wide/Title I Targeted Assistance Plan and the Continuous Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plans through:

- District Parent and Community Stakeholder Input Meetings
- School Title I Stakeholder Meetings
- Communication with parents via the website and various communication platforms

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **DeKalb County School District** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

DCSD will provide support and technical assistance to all its Title I schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement practices inclusive of School-Parent and Family Engagement Policies/Plans, School-Parent Compacts, and all Title I parent and family engagement requirements through:

- Central Office Support for Parent and Family Engagement– (Title I Director and OFP Coordinators)
- Seven (7) District Parent Center Facilitators
- Seven (7) District-Wide Parent Centers that support Parent and Family Engagement
- Local Parent Centers as funded by schools---School Level Parent Liaisons.
- Title I Technical Support and Work Sessions.
- Annual Title I Summit
- Title I participation in Administrators Academy meetings to share Title I updates
- Building School Staff Capacity for district and local schools

## ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **DeKalb County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement 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. The evaluation 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 evaluation 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 engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

DCSD evaluation of the Title I program will be conducted by:

- Feedback from parents from district-wide survey.
- Collection of parent input during Parent and Stakeholder Input; district and school-level meetings; feedback from parents from school-wide survey.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The **DeKalb County School District** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

DCSD will share with parents and family members the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and how parents and family members will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used.

### **Salaries**

- District Parent Center Facilitators

### **Supplies/ Resources**

- District-wide Parent Centers
- District-wide Parent Workshops

### **Communication**

- Translation of Title I Parent Communications and Documents in top 15 languages
- Translators for District Parent Meetings

### **Other**

- District-Wide Title I Parent Conference
- Parent Facilitator's Travel and Mileage Reimbursement

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 Parent and Family Engagement District Input Meetings/Trainings
- Title I School-Level Parent and Family Engagement Community Meetings

## COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **DeKalb County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: Bright from the Start; transitioning to middle, high, postsecondary schools, or careers; that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

DCSD will coordinate with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families such as public programs or organizations to help students transition to middle, high, and postsecondary schools or careers

1. Providing support from the Office of Federal Programs (OFP).
2. Providing parents' access to Parent Centers at the seven regional centers and local school centers.
3. Extending flexible operating hours to accommodate the needs of the community, parents and stakeholders.
4. Ensuring residential facilities (Homeless, foster care, and N&D) in the school's attendance areas are included in parent and family engagement correspondence and activities
5. Ensuring allocations and equitable services for participating private schools with eligible Title I students

## BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **DeKalb County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) 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 challenging State academic 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. Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) (Annually).
2. Title I Parent and Family Engagement Input Meeting (Annually).
3. Title I Parental Center Facilitator District and Regional workshops such as: Cluster/Regional Conferences, Literacy Workshops/Event, Math Carnival, Georgia Milestone Workshops, Parent Portal Infinite Campus, District Tech Café Workshops, College and Career Readiness, etc.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The **DeKalb County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

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

1. District meetings for school administrators, principals and/or designated staff.
2. School staff meetings and trainings.
3. Professional Learning for Title I funded staff.
4. Title I Compliance & Instructional Summit.
5. District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Summit

The District and schools will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
- Maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
- Participate in districtwide parent advisory council meetings to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

## **ADOPTION**

The DeKalb County School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by stakeholder feedback during the Title I Stakeholder Meeting, Comprehensive Needs Assessment Meeting and communications with parents via school/district websites and various forms of media.

This policy/plan was initially distributed for parents and stakeholder input October 6, 2020. It was revised with parent feedback information October 28, 2020. This policy/plan will be in effect for the period of October 2020 - August 2021. DCSD will distribute, make this policy available, and/or provide physical or electronic access to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2020.