

District Level Parent and Family Engagement

Plan

2018-2019



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Revised April 27, 2018

Park Elementary School & Creekside School receive 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 plan that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students.

Family Engagement for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

The plan establishes the Harris County School District's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the district's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

How is it revised?

The Harris County School District invites all parents and community members in the spring to revise the district level plan where they receive a copy of the district plan for review. Parents may receive copies of the plan for review at school level meetings, and compact revision meetings. Surveys are completed annually in the spring and results from the surveys are used to revise the plan.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. The Title I 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.

Where is it available?

The district level plan is made available to all parents and community members. The district plan is made available to all parents who attend monthly meetings, in the Main Office, Media Center and the Parent Room Office at Title I School. Parents may request a copy at any time.

Harris County Board of Education

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2018-2019 District Goals

*The mission of the Harris County School District:
Offering an excellent education for every child in Harris County.*

STRATEGIC PLAN – Fall 2017 – Spring 2022

Focus Area 1: Student Achievement

Goal: Harris County Schools will sustain student academic achievement and growth.

Focus Area 2: Culture, Climate and Community

Goal: Harris County Schools will maintain a positive, productive, safe and engaging learning community.

Focus Area 3: Quality Assurance

Goal: Harris County Schools will utilize and maximize available resources to support student achievement and organizational effectiveness.

HARRIS COUNTY SCHOOLS District Level Parent and Family Engagement Plan 2018 -2019

The Harris County School System believes that successful schooling is a shared responsibility requiring commitment and collaboration among parents, faculty, and staff. The Harris County Board of Education affirms and assures the rights of parents, teachers, principals, administrators, support staff, community and businesses to participate in planning, designing, and implementation of activities funded by the Title I program.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Harris County School District agrees to implement the following statutory 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 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.
- 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 1116 (d) of the ESEA.
- 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, neglected, 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 Georgia Department of Education.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement 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:

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 1116 of the ESEA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Harris 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 ESEA:

- All Title I parents will receive invitations to participate in planning and input meetings on School Improvement Plan(SIP); Title I Schoolwide Plan (SWP); Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Parent – Budget, and Title I Budget.
- Notify parents that schools have been identified for school improvement (Universal, Targeted, Comprehensive, or Turnaround). The schools will provide direction and plans will be posted on the District and school websites with copies made available at the District office and in eligible Title I schools.
- Title I Program Evaluations will be conducted throughout the school year with opportunities for parental input on Title I surveys, at local schools’ Annual Meetings, workshop activities and during District Parent Advisory Meetings.
- Disseminate results of evaluation access for parents to understand and submit input on the Home - School – Parent Compact revisions at the school level. The plan will be posted on the school’s website and in the school building.
- Report child’s progress to his/her parents.
- Provide information concerning the Title I program.
- Ensure that notices/advertisements are made in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.
- Provide information to parents regarding their rights to know the professional qualification of the child’s teacher at the beginning of each school year.
- Provide the required notice to parents if the child is being taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified for four or more consecutive weeks.

Parental Involvement Standards

The Harris County School District have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the district's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

Welcoming All Families

Communicating Effectively

Supporting Student Success

Speaking Up for Every child

Sharing Power

Collaborating with Community

Family Engagement Committee

The Harris County School District invites all parents to join the District Level Parent and Family Engagement Committee to share ideas and ways to involve other parents to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The committee will meet monthly during the school year, but parents can also submit their ideas and suggestions at district activities and meetings, as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the Parent and Family Engagement Committee please contact the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator, Patricia Holloway at (706) 628-4206 ex.1213 or holloway-p@harris.k12.ga.us.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Harris County School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

Federal Programs Director (Title I Director) provides technical assistance to school leadership, parent and family engagement coordinator and Title I staff as listed below.

- Implements on-going system wide training, communications, and discussions with schools regarding effective development of school parent and engagement plan and school-parent compacts.
- Encourages parent and teachers to build a partnership between home and school using a parent and family engagement plan, and school/home compact.
- Conducts annual revisions of school level parent and family engagement plans and school-parent compacts.
- Provides opportunities for parents to be informed by newsletters, website messages, workshops, school meetings, PTA/PTO, parent/teacher conferences, parent resource center and direct mail correspondence, if applicable.
- Offers programs and build ties between parents and the schools. (Professional Development)
- Collaborates and integrates, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent and family engagement programs with other programs to include Early Intervention Program (EIP), counselors, Pre-K Program, Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) institutions, Head Start, Homeless, Drug Free Schools, Adult Education, Private Schools, and/or Family Connection to integrate parent and family engagement strategies and programs.
- Ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- Ensures that reports of student progress needs/successes are specific and timely for parents.
- Provides such other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Harris County School District 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 plan 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement plan to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary its parent and family engagement plans.

A district-wide Title I advisory meeting will occur annually with the aim of evaluating the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan in improving student achievement. The school district will revise its Parent and Family Engagement Plan (and with the involvement of parents) based upon the annual review. The evaluation process will include:

- Conducting an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Plan, with assistance of its schools and parents. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents, 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. If barriers to participate are identified, strategies will be enlisted to remove barriers.
- During system and school annual meetings and advisory council meetings, parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators are given a questionnaire to ascertain the effectiveness of the plan and identify barriers to greater participation. A survey is also distributed to all parents of participating children. In addition, each school conducts needs assessment and maintains and submits documentation of parenting activities and parent contacts to the Title I Director. The findings of the evaluation will be used to revise or design strategies to increase parent participation and determine how the funds are spent.
- Parent program evaluations occur at the conclusions of workshops, meetings and other parent events.
- Annual Parent Survey: parents' and community members' participation in the annual survey is advertised and completed through the district website, public libraries, and newsletters.
- Using the findings of evaluations in designing strategies for school improvement and revising, if necessary, LEA and schools' parental involvement plans, with assistance of its schools and parents.
- The findings of the needs assessment, questionnaire, parent contact logs, evaluation of parenting activities, and survey will be used for improving schools and the Title I program. The system and schools' parental involvement plans will be revised and strategies will be designed to reflect suggestions and recommendations of the parents, teachers and administrators, when feasible. Collection and summarization of system-wide data on parental involvement at district and school level meetings, events and activities.

- If the parents are still not satisfied with the plan(s), comments will be submitted with the plan(s) to the Georgia State Department of Education and a copy will be kept on file.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Harris 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. The following are different opportunities for parents and stakeholders to have input in the 1 percent set aside:

- Schools are required to have a school advisory council comprised of parents with children who attend Title I schools and receive Title I services; to talk and collaborate, and conduct regular meetings. All parents are invited to attend and to provide input regarding how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds will be spent.
- Schools will develop and implement procedures for the advisory group.
- Schools will annually review and revise the schoolwide parent and family engagement plan and procedures at a meeting.
- The district will annually review the parent and family Engagement plan at a meeting and the Title I Director will complete a checklist to ensure that all required components are addressed.
- The District and the schools will provide direction and access for parents to understand and submit input on the district and school Parent and Family Engagement Plan revisions at the school and district level. The plan will be posted on the district website and in the schools.
- Schools and district will annually present the Parent and Family Engagement Plan to the parents at a meeting.
- Parents will complete the Title I District Annual Parent Survey and Title I Program evaluation.
- Review survey results with parents of participating students in collaboration with district staff and schools.
- Advertisement of plans to revise The District Parent and Family Engagement plan will be advertised through the local newspaper, on district and school websites, in school newsletters and on school's marquee.
- Parent notifications to participate in the revision of the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and Title I Parent Advisory Meetings at the district and school level.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Harris County School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parental involvement to the extent feasible and appropriate with other relevant Federal, State and local laws and programs:

- The central office staff and district Title I staff shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The Title I central office staff and principals shall coordinate parental involvement strategies, programs and activities, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with such programs as HeadStart, Safe and Drug Free School, Early Intervention Program (EIP), Remedial Education Program (REP), and Bright From the Start - Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (BFTS).
- Staff from the Title I program, and Bright from the Start -Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Head Start, State run preschool programs will attend seminars, workshops, and conferences together, if appropriate. Each year, Head Start and private daycares attend the Pre – K professional development meeting led by the BFTS State consultant. Harris County School System provides a facility for Head Start. All programs will coordinate their parenting activities, information, and resources to maximize parental involvement efforts and increase participation of the parents. As appropriate, parents from each of the programs will be invited to attend joint parental involvement activities. The school principals, Resource Coordinators, Head Start Director, Bright from the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Kindergarten teachers and Family Connection Director will collaborate on transition activities for elementary, middle and high school parents and share information on available community services. To integrate services, communication with other programs will be ongoing.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Harris County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, aid parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph: 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 Part A.
- How to monitor their child's progress.

- How to work with educators.

This is done during annually scheduled meetings that are held at the beginning of the school year and conducted system-wide. Title I teachers at each school distribute information informing parents of their child's grade level standards.

Activities may include:

- Parent workshops concluded with program evaluations
- Curriculum-based events based on school defined academic goals such as: College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) workshops, Homework Help workshops, Family Reading Night, Math/Science Family events, Curriculum Night events that may highlight state assessments Georgia Milestones and Student Learning Objectives
- International Night
- School and District Parent Advisory Council
- Transition opportunities
- PTSA/PTA Meetings
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- District and School Level Title I Parent Meetings and Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Meetings;
- Explanation of testing and student results.

All parents are invited by school newsletter, local newspaper article, website, and district and school Black Board Connect notification system.

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

- Each Title I school offers parenting workshops during different times of the day (morning and evening) to accommodate parents work schedules. Topics for workshops are based on identified needs from surveys, teacher input and student performance data. Some workshops are in collaboration with the English Language Proficient, students with disabilities, Neglected, Foster Care, Homeless, Migrant, and the Pre-K program. Childcare is available, if needed.
- Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator provides literature for parents to use to provide academic support and assistance for their child at home. Resources available to parents may include parenting books, videos, math and Leap Frog reading skill building material.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff 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:

- Providing training of effective ways to communicate with parents,
- Reviewing parent and family engagement evaluations with school personnel and determine what can be done to assist with parent's needs,
- Promoting cultural understanding to all staff at Title I schools,
- Providing mandatory volunteer training sessions for parents and provide as allowable opportunities for parents to volunteer at their child's school, and
- Joint efforts of educators and parents in revising the Parent-School compact.

The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, if applicable that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Collaborating and integrating to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent and family engagement activities with other programs such as Early Intervention Program (EIP), counselors, Pre-K Program, Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) Institutions, Homeless, Head Start, Homeless, Drug Free Schools, Limited English Proficient, Private Schools, Adult Education, Migrant and to integrate parent and family engagement strategies and programs.
- Maintaining regular communication regarding curriculum and testing.
- Providing access to parent training materials and parent training opportunities.
- Collaborating and planning transition activities.

The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

- Provide written communication, as appropriate in an understandable language.
- Utilize contracted services of translators, as needed.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The Harris County School District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school district to support their children's academic achievement per Section 1116 (e) of the ESSA:

- Establishing a LEA Parent Advisory Council (PAC) to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement activities in Title I, Part A programs.
 - A Districtwide Parent Advisory Council is established annually and is comprised of district parent representatives. All parents of students receiving Title I services are welcome to join the council. The PAC will provide advice on all matters related to Parent and Family Engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on the council. Each council meeting is advertised by the Title I schools and on the district website. If you are interested in becoming a member of the council you may attend a meeting.

PART IV: ADOPTION

This Harris County School District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. The school district will make the plan available in the Library of each eligible Title I School and on the website for the District to all parents and family members of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2018.