

# Long County Schools/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy



## Long County School District *School Year 2019-2020* *Revised May 6, 2019*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, The Long 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 Long 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, of neglected and delinquent, homeless, 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 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 parent/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

The Long County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental engagement plan under;

- Host a parent feedback meeting annually for all parents to participate in the analysis of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and to discuss the plan's effectiveness in meeting the needs of the students and requirements of the Title I Program.
- Distribute parent feedback forms to all parents of students enrolled in Title I schools to involve parents in the development of this policy, the district plan, and use of parent/family engagement funds.
- Distribute and provide access in multiple ways the districts Parent and Family Engagement Plan and engage in open communication about the plan during parent meetings, such as the following:
  - Annual Title I Public Meeting
  - School Advisory Council Meetings
  - Migrant Parent Advisory Council Meetings
  - Open House
  - Parent Workshops
  - Parent Conferences

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The Long 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:

- Provide parent access to each school's Title I plan, compact, parent and family engagement policy/plan, and brochure via each school's website. A stakeholder feedback form will also be provided to facilitate parent/family engagement in the development of these documents and in the expenditure of funds.
- Hold an annual meeting for parents of students in the Title I program to discuss the review and implementation of the Title I plan and how Title I funds for parent/family engagement activities will be used.
- Distribute an annual survey to all parents of children enrolled in Title I schools to involve parents/families in the process of design, review, and improvement of the Title I program.
- Review the effectiveness of the actions and activities the schools are carrying out under this part with respect to parent/family engagement, for professional development, and other activities and provide opportunity for all parent input throughout the year in multiple ways.
- Annually involve parents/families and stakeholders in Comprehensive Needs Assessment process.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Long 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:

- Employ a district-wide Parent/ Family Engagement Coordinator that provides support to assist in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement. An important responsibility of the district Parent/ Family Engagement Coordinator is to join forces with each school's personnel as well as the community agencies to nurture a supportive spirit among schools, parents, and the community.
- Employ a Title I Director that provides guidance and support to administrators and the Parental/ Family Engagement Coordinator through emails, telephone calls, meetings, etc.
- Review school parent and family engagement policy/plan to ensure compliance, including documentation from parent meetings showing it was developed jointly with parent input.

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Long 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 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.

- Parent meetings (Migrant PAC, Annual Title I Meeting)
- Feedback from focus groups.
- Surveys (take-home, email, electronic)
- Offer a variety of opportunities for parents to be involved in their child's education
- Publicize (website, Remind info app, flyers, social media etc.) all activities in multiple ways to ensure families are informed.
- Provide assistance to schools throughout the year as needed.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The Long 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. Parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools will be involved in the following ways:

- Annual Title 1 Informational Meetings
- BOE budget sessions and Meetings
- Parent/ Stakeholder surveys (take-home, emailed, and electronic)
- Participation in annual CNA process

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The Long 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: Head Start and Georgia State operated preschool programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Coordinating parent/family engagement efforts to have a greater impact on the community
- Coordinating the use of parent resources (technology, books, supplies)
- Collaborating with external early education programs to develop an effective program that prepares young learners for grade school and parents for school transition.
- Coordinating with early educational programs to invite families and preschool children into the schools to take a tour and participate in planned activities.
- Active participant in all Family Connections meetings and projects.
- Collaborating and forming a relationship with Public Library.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The Long 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
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- All Title I schools will host parent meeting/workshops/classes
  - Send home information via written correspondence, take-home folders, in planners, etc
  - Post information on websites, districts and each individual school, and social media
  - Using multiple sources to keep parents informed
  - Hosting parent/family workshops that promote the ongoing needs of the families
  - Providing take-home learning materials that provide tips and ideas for helping children in core subject areas.
  - Hosting parent meetings for parents to provide feedback regarding the best practices for communication
  - Disseminating a parent survey annually requesting input about effective school/home communication

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The Long 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:

Providing adequate Professional Development for school staff and parent/family engagement on a yearly basis to address a variety of topics that may include but are not limited to the following:

- Communicating with Parents
- Including Parents in the Homework Process
- The Basics of Parent/Family Engagement
- Promoting Cultural Competency

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

The Long County 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 an interpreter as needed for parent meetings
- Provide written communications in a language parents can understand
- 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
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council 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

The parent/family engagement policy was written with parents, school personnel, and community members. All stakeholders were informed of district-wide parent meetings by flyers

sent home with students, posted throughout the district, advertisement on school websites, and social media.

### **ADOPTION**

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the collection of forms and data from schools and the district.

This policy was adopted by the Long County School District on May 13, 2019 and will be in effect for the period of the 2019-2020 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2019.

2019-2020  
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