



GAINESVILLE CITY SCHOOL SYSTEM

2016-2017 DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN

508 Oak Street, Gainesville, GA 30501
(Revised July 14, 2016)

WHAT IS PARENT INVOLVEMENT?

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

- (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) Carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.***

ABOUT THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Gainesville City Schools developed this parental involvement Plan that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe Gainesville City School'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 parental involvement 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 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1118, the Gainesville City Schools District office will work with our schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies

meet the requirements of Section 1118 (b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.

The school district will also, to the extent practicable, provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. This includes providing information and school reports in an understandable language and uniform format. Parents are more than welcome to provide feedback and comments at any time which will be included with the plan when it is submitted to the Georgia State Department of Education.

The 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 one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. Parents will be invited to provide input into the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), School Parental Involvement Plans, School Improvement Plan/Title I School-Wide Plan, and School-Parent Compacts. Input may be provided at meetings as well as by completing feedback forms available on district and school websites

HOW WE WILL IMPLEMENT DISTRICT PARENT PLAN COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Gainesville City School System** 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:

- Share the current year plan and obtain parent input through discussion or use of feedback forms regarding revisions to the plan and use of parent involvement funds in the following places:
 - o at district parent events
 - o on the district website and school websites
 - o in the district Parent Resource Center.
- Use multimedia distribution (Parent link, flyers, newspaper articles, school newsletters and district/school websites) in English and Spanish.
- Collect input from parents via the spring parent survey and during parent meetings where the plan is the purpose of the meeting or an agenda item.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Gainesville City School System** 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:

- Host district meetings for school level administrators, Title I staff and Parent Involvement Coordinators in order to review Title I parent involvement requirements and offer professional learning on topics such as parent engagement strategies and building parent capacity.

- Review individual school plans and parent involvement documentation in order to maintain compliance with federal regulations and state guidance and to show they were developed jointly with parent input.
- Identify a parent involvement contact person at each school.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Gainesville City School System** 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.

- Parents will be notified in multiple ways by the LEA and individual schools to participate in a parent survey each spring. The survey will be available in multiple ways such as electronically on websites, by email and as a hard copy.
- Parents will have opportunity to review and evaluate the content and effectiveness of the plan:
 - During parent events when time will be set aside to review the entire plan or a portion of the plan.
 - By reviewing and giving input on the plan displayed on the LEA website.
 - By reviewing and giving input on the plan displayed in the Parent Resource Center or office.
- LEA will use this input to make improvements during the current year and to revise the plan in the upcoming year.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Gainesville City School System** will reserve 1 percent of the total amount of Title funds it receives for the FY17 to carry out the parental involvement, including family literacy, parenting skills, and additional requirements listed in this policy and as described in *Section 1118(a)(3)(A)* and *Section 1118(a)(3)(C)* of the ESEA. GCSS will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement program and activities. In the fall, each Title I school hosts an Annual Title I parent Meeting to share Title I information related to their school. During this time schools, share the plan for the reservation of Title I funds for Parental Involvement. In the spring Title I schools offer parents an opportunity to provide input and feedback on how funds reserved are allotted for parental involvement activities as described in *Section 1118 (a)(3)(B)* . The district will provide clear guidance and communication in the appropriate use of funds to address and support the needs assessment and parent communication for each Title I school through district technical assistance meetings, emails, and on-site school visits.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Gainesville City School System will integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under Head Start and Georgia Pre-K by:

- Preschool SpEd, Head Start, New Holland, local housing authority sponsors Read and Rise each Spring
- Partner with Head Start to provide support for children with special needs who attend Head Start.
- GCSS hosts quarterly Family Learning Sessions so that parents can work alongside staff to develop ideas for home carryover activities. This includes parents of children ages 3 – 5.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

A. The Gainesville City School System will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, 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

To do so, the district office will:

- Provide professional learning to school administrators regarding building capacity of parents and provide assistance to parents on understanding GA Standards of Excellence
- Provide technical assistance to parent coordinators on building capacity of parents.

B. 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:

- Conducting parent workshops on topics that will help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement. This would include content specific curriculum nights conducted at the schools, and other family engagement activities such as Parent University
- Providing print materials in multiple languages, to the extent practicable (*ex. brochures, handouts,*) to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools by:**
- Providing professional development in this area for administrators and school personnel
 - Provide technical support at school level Title I meetings as needed
 - Will educate school administrators about the challenges faced by parents with limited English language proficiency in supporting student learning at home
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and Georgia Pre-K Programs. The district will also conduct other activities, such as provide parent resource centers at all schools, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:**
- Sending district parent workshop information to preschool programs to share with parents of preschool children
 - Providing information about parent involvement activities and programs to preschool programs to include in newsletters and other parent communications used by those programs
 - Providing Preschool SpEd, Head Start, New Holland, local housing authority sponsors Read and Rise each Spring
 - Partnering with Head Start to provide support for children with special needs who attend Head Start.
- E. 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:**
- Utilize translation devices at all events when needed
 - Provide written communication in multiple languages that the parent can understand
 - Provide interpreters for parent meetings when needed
 - Translate all automated calls and emails
 - Share parental involvement communications in a variety of languages and media including community newspaper, flyer, websites, social media, Power Messenger, posters, school marquees, and translation and/or interpretive services.
- F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request. The Gainesville City School system will seek input from parents to determine other support needed using annual parent surveys, plan feedback forms,**

workshop feedback allowing parents to make suggestions, verbal feedback, and email. Parents have suggested the following for the 2016-2017 school year:

- Conduct parent workshops and meetings at multiple times in order that parents can attend during the day or evening as their schedules permit.
- Provide contact information for workshop and meeting leaders so parents can follow-up with questions and comments at a later date.
- Provide parents with feedback forms at the end of workshops to inform the schools of other Title I workshops and trainings they would like.
- Post beginning and ending time of workshops so parents can plan adequately.
- Notify parents of activities using a variety of contact methods: email, flyers, calendars of events, texts, phone calls, weekly folders, website notices, etc.
- Provide resources and training to support parents with limited English language proficiency to support student learning at home

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Gainesville City School System** 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:

- Providing professional development in this area for administrators and school personnel staff by providing resources and tools to build effective family school partnerships
- Will educate school administrators about the challenges faced by parents with limited English language proficiency in supporting student learning at home

For more information on Gainesville City School System's Parental Involvement Plan, please contact:

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