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## PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

2019-2020

Revised April 9, 2019

### What is Family Engagement?

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) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) 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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



### About the Parent & Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Troup County School System (TCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe TCSS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in the 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 family engagement 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 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The TCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

### Jointly Developed

During the district meetings in the spring of 2019, the Parent Advisory Council and all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district policy for the 2019-2020 school year. The district used flyers, district/school websites, and other social media informing parents about the meetings. During the meetings, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school's website or by submitting written comments to their child's school by using input forms on the website and in the Parent Resource Center.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites, included in Parent/Student handbooks each year, and made available in the schools' Parent Resource Centers in a format and language that parents can understand.



## Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator (PFEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive regular notifications and resources from the district PFEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communications and school visits, the PFEC will communicate monthly with Title I schools' principals/administrative teams to review family engagement plans and activities.

## Reservation of Funds

The TCSS will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the TCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will gather input from families while hosting an annual School Improvement Forum. This will give families a time for suggestions on how the family engagement set-aside funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Stakeholder input forms from the forums will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

## Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are essential components of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend the meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals. To the extent possible, materials are translated in Spanish and Korean, and interpreters are present at the meetings.

### **Open House Meetings in the Schools ▪ Fall of 2019**

Each Title I school will host a parent meeting at the beginning of the school year to share about Title I and to seek parent input on School Parent Compacts. These important compacts are revised annually by students, parents, and teachers together. They are reviewed throughout the year, as well.

### **District Improvement Forum ▪ Spring of 2020**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Troup County School System as well as review and provide input into the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be made available to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school and district websites. If you are unable to attend the meetings, call the Federal Programs office for more information. (706) 812-7900 extension 1149

### **School Improvement Forums ▪ Spring of 2020**

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan/school improvement plan, the school Parent and Family Engagement Policy, as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and family engagement program. Each Title I school will send a flyer home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on each Title I school website and in weekly classroom newsletters. If you are unable to attend these meetings, call the school for more information.

## **Building Capacity**

### **Of Parents**

The TCSS will work with its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their children's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. Under the district's direction, each Title I school will host a minimum of two parent workshops that are academic in nature. The dates and locations for these workshops will be posted on the school's website, shared through each Title I school's newsletters, and sent home as flyers in Tuesday folders.

The TCSS will provide helpful parent links on the district website and ensure that the Title I schools' websites contain resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home.

The TCSS will coordinate and integrate the district parent and family engagement programs with other programs such as: Exceptional Educational Program, Twin Cedars Youth Services (Ault Academy), Connections, Pineland, Troup BELL, Success By Six, and others. We will promote school readiness by collaborating with the Head Start program and other state funded preschool programs in the district as part of a community collaborative that will meet multiple times during the year. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Transition days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help them and their children prepare for kindergarten. The TCSS will also coordinate with community programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

To ensure that information related to parent programs, meetings and other activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will make available a calendar of events with information for parents at the beginning of the year. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings when requested. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

### **Of School Staff**

The TCSS will educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners and on implementing programs to build ties between parents and schools. The TCSS will also provide information for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families. In addition, the Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator will provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parent and family engagement requirements and initiatives. The district will educate school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value of parent and family engagement. Parents will actively share ways that ties between parents and the school can be strengthened and sustained.

The TCSS has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council (PAC) comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners as part of the PAC.

The TCSS works hand in hand with community organizations, including faith-based organizations, to share parent and family engagement activities and to increase the knowledge base in our community of the importance of family engagement for our students overall success.



## Upcoming Dates:

### FOR PARENTS

#### Monthly Parent Advisory Council

Meetings- open to everyone

Dates posted on school websites

Administrative Services Center

#### National Parent Engagement Month

November, 2019\*\* Check the website for special ways to get involved!

#### District Improvement Forum

March, 2020

Administrative Services Center

#### School Improvement Forums

March -May, 2020

Local School Sites

If your schedule does not allow you to attend the meetings, feel free to call the Federal Programs office for information- 706-812-7900,

ext 1149. If childcare is a barrier to you coming to a meeting, check in with us, too. We may be able to help!

### FOR SCHOOLS

#### New School Year Site Training

August, 2019

#### Principal Meetings

Monthly-Administrative Services Center

#### Family Liaison Meetings

Monthly-Administrative Services Center

## Parent & Family Engagement Evaluation

Throughout the year, the TCSS will conduct multiple evaluations of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools. The TCSS will gather input in the form of evaluations at various events at the school level and district level. The TCSS will also meet personally with families in the spring at the School Improvement Forums and District Improvement Forum to gather input.

Regular evaluations, as well as group forums, have the main purpose of obtaining input from parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and designing strategies for more effective parent and family engagement.

The TCSS will use the findings from the various evaluations and forums for continuous improvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.



## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Parent & Family Engagement Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Student Assignment and other support services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand when feasible.

## Development

This district parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual district meetings.

Final revisions to this policy were made on April 9, 2019. The policy will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children during the first weeks of school.