



What is Parent and Family Engagement?

The participation of parents and families in **regular, two-way** and **meaningful communication** involving **student academic learning** and other school activities ensuring that:

- *Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- *Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education;*
- *Parents and families 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; and*
- *Other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of ESSA, are implemented.*

Purpose

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Cherokee County School District (CCSD) receives Title I, Part A funds and, therefore, must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written Parent and Family Engagement Plan that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This plan establishes the District's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and family partnerships in the District's Title I schools. Additionally, this plan describes CCSD's commitment to engage families, including neglected & delinquent facilities, 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 District and student academic achievement goals.

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. CCSD and its Title I schools will ensure that the required school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plan meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a teacher-parent-student compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Parent and Family Engagement Plan Evaluation

Each year, the Cherokee County School District (CCSD) will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the Title I Revision Meetings. In the spring, each Title I school will provide access to a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the school websites for families to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the Title I Revision Meeting to garner input from stakeholders regarding Title I services to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement. CCSD will use the stakeholder input from the Revision Meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent and family participation and to revise its Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

## Jointly Developed and Reviewed

Cherokee County School District (CCSD) will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the joint development of its District Parent and Family Engagement Plan as required by ESSA:

- *Notify all stakeholders of the District Parent and Family Engagement Meeting through multiple means of communication;*
- *Post the District Parent Family Engagement Plan on each school's website; and*
- *Conduct a meeting of District stakeholders to provide input into the District's Comprehensive Needs Assessment, the District Improvement Plan and the District's Parent and Family Engagement Plan.*

CCSD will take the following actions to involve parents and families in the process of school review and improvement required by ESSA:

- *Invite and encourage parents and stakeholders to attend school level and District annual Title I Revision Meetings in the spring;*
- *Provide and distribute Annual Report of District Progress;*
- *Notify parents and families that a school has been identified as needing improvement and the implications of this status;*
- *Survey parents and families annually at the Title I schools to determine strengths and areas for improvement;*
- *Administer District surveys, as needed, (i.e Cognia accreditation, CCSD Academies, Strategic Plan Survey and Student Health);*
- *Meet regularly with the Cherokee County Council of Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) for input;*
- *Select parent representatives for Superintendent Ad Hoc Committees as appropriate;*
- *Share each school's Executive Summary of the School Improvement Plan with parents and families at Board of Education meetings, which are open to the public, and through the local school's website;*
- *Establish and build relationships with businesses in the community by fostering partnership agreements and securing additional resources to support teaching and learning, including alternative sources of funding such as the Cherokee County Educational Foundation;*
- *Work with School and County Council Parent-Teacher Associations (PTA), as well as community-based organizations, to cultivate and establish relationships that support District initiatives;*
- *Increase awareness of CCSD as the education option of choice in Cherokee County through focused communication on CCSD achievements via publications such as "CCSD Connections" parent e-newsletter, "Choices", and web content; and*
- *Invite and encourage parents to participate in the annual Volunteer Instructional Leadership Learning Academy (VILLA) parent academy, a free, six-week program that provides parents with greater insight into CCSD operations and the role of the School Board.*

## Reservation of Funds

Cherokee County School District (CCSD) will reserve one percent of the total amount of Title I funds it receives in Fiscal Year 2021 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of ESSA. Furthermore, CCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their school-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 spring, families are given the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the use of parent and family engagement funds through an annual parent survey and Title I Revision Meetings. The survey will*

*determine the effectiveness of the Title I program, specifically request information regarding additional parent programs, meetings or events parents would like to see during the next school year and garner input regarding the use of the required one percent parent and family engagement funds at the school level. The survey will be sent to all families, in a language they can understand, to the extent practicable;*

- *The Parent Engagement Facilitator will be responsible for working with a school administrator to revise the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan based on survey results if needed; and*
- *Parents will be provided survey results and next steps at various Title I meetings and workshops throughout the school year.*

## Building Capacity

Cherokee County School District (CCSD) will build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective engagement of families and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, families and community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities specifically described below:

### ***Of Parents and Families—***

The District will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents and families of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the State's academic content 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 and providing materials. Additionally, trainings to help parents and families work with their children to improve academic achievement, such as understanding the online learning management system *Canvas* and digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) will be provided. Partnering with CCSD Division of Technology and Department of Digital Learning, the Title I schools will offer workshops for parents and families at dates/time determined by individual schools. The following opportunities will be offered:

- *Curriculum Night, which will be held in a virtual format, will be held in the fall at all schools to provide information to parents and families regarding content standards, assessments, how to monitor their child's progress and how to use technology to improve academic achievement;*
- *Title I schools will provide ongoing parent and family workshops throughout the year (examples: ELA, Math and Science Night, Parent Data Nights, ESOL/EIP Family Night, Online Resource Night and Canvas);*
- *Parents and families will be notified of parent and family engagement events in multiple ways (newsletters, flyers, website, marquee, email and text-Remind) in a language the parents can understand (to the extent practicable);*
- *The CCSD website will provide resources for parents regarding standards, assessments and technology resources;*
- *Title III funds will be utilized for family literacy services and supplemental language support service ;*
- *Title III funds will be utilized to hire a Family Service Bilingual Assistant for training on increasing Parent Engagement to raise language acquisition and student achievement, adjust to the U.S. school system and gather feedback from families on how services to their families can be improved; and*
- *CCSD will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request.*

### ***Of School Staff—***

CCSD, with the assistance of its schools and families, will educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals and other staff on the following: 1) how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents and families as equal partners. 2) the value and utility of contributions of parents and families; and 3) how to implement and coordinate parent and family engagement programs to build ties between parents, families and schools as follows:

- *Parent Engagement Facilitators and/or District staff will provide ongoing staff training at the Title I schools on communicating and working with parents and families;*
- *Administrator on Special Assignment, Student Services, will provide training for School Counselors and School Social Workers for student support; and*
- *CCSD's Division of Technology and Department of Digital Learning will provide instructional and technical support to all schools to help classroom teachers utilize and integrate technology, including a learning management system, to communicate effectively with families.*

## Technical Assistance

Cherokee County School District (CCSD) will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

District Supervisor, Federal Programs, and/or designee will utilize the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) Family-School Partnership Program website to develop training materials, resources and workshops for staff of Title I schools by:

- *Participating in Family-School Partnership Webinar series;*
- *Sharing of GaDOE Family-School Partnership publications; and*
- *Providing resources available through the GaDOE website.*

District Supervisor, Federal Programs and/or the designee will:

- *Meet at least quarterly with Parent Engagement Facilitators to provide assistance in improving services to parents and families;*
- *Provide varied ongoing technical assistance (i.e., face-to-face support, emails, and phone calls) with Title I staff regarding implementation of effective parental and family engagement activities; and*
- *Attend Parent and Family Engagement Conferences and/or Regional Meetings with staff and parent/family representatives from Title I schools.*

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the Supervisor, Federal Programs will communicate and collaborate with the Division of School Operations to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents/family members (including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, migratory, homeless and students in residential facilities in the District) and will provide information and school reports in a language parents can understand, to the extent practicable, using various methods of communications that may include newsletters, District letters, enrollment forms and Gateway Registration platform, school websites, social media, flyers, student handbook, texting services and District website.

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### Coordination of Services

Cherokee County School District (CCSD) will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Title I, Part A with other programs and agencies by collaborating with the Early Intervention Program, local School Councils and feeder day care and private preschools to assist with meaningful parental opportunities.

- *Provide school tours at local schools;*
- *Collaborate with private daycare and Pre-K programs to schedule school tours;*
- *Provide transition meetings (Kindergarten, 6th grade and 9th grade) and parent and family workshops at local schools; and*
- *Offer parent and family resources and educational opportunities postings via the District and school websites.*

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### Adoption

This District Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. It will be in effect for the 2021-22 academic school year. The District will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents and families of children attending Title I, Part A, schools by October 31, 2021.

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