



District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Plan
Towns County Schools
2023 - 2024
Revised May 1, 2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Towns County Schools 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 Towns 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.
- 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, 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 state Department of Education.

- The school district will be governed by the following 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.

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED
LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Towns 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:

- a. The plan is posted on the school and district website with a feedback form.
- b. At least two meetings are held to solicit parent input.
- c. In the spring, the plan is shared and parents are invited to review and discuss the plan as part of the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).
- d. Input received from family meetings and surveys.
- e. Parents are welcome to review and provide feedback on the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and parent survey regarding the policy at any time on the feedback form or by submitting written comments.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Towns 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 involvement 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:

- a. Training school staff and families in planning and implementing effective family engagement programs.
- b. Seeking meaningful input from employers, business leader, community organizations, and individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members through community meetings and surveys.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Towns 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 involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- a. Each Title I School will survey its family population at least annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the family engagement program
- b. Families are given the opportunity to take the survey in a written or online format
- c. A minimum of two parent input meetings meets will occur annually to review and revise the Family Engagement Improvement Procedures, Parent and Family Engagement Plan, Building Staff Capacity and School –Family Compacts.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Towns County School District does not receive \$500K and is not required to set aside 1% for parent involvement

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Towns 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 that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by providing, workshops, school meetings at different times of the day for parent convenience and orientation meetings.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Towns County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement 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
- Grade Level Expectations
- How to prepare for EOC's, EOG's
- Transition from elementary to middle school
- Transition from middle to high school
- Post-secondary planning for high school students

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Towns 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:

- Sending home newsletters.
- Sending home graded work.
- Holding parent – teacher conferences.
- Working with families for student success.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT :

- 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 parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Maximize parental involvement 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 parental involvement.
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

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.

This policy was adopted by the Towns County School District on May 1, 2023 and will be in effect for the period of the 2023-2024 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2023.