

District Parent Involvement Plan 2013-14

Developed Dec. 30, 2013

The State Schools District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its three state schools, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, Georgia Academy for the Blind and Georgia School for the Deaf with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents.

Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: 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:

- parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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;
- the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

Description of How The District Will Implement the Required District Parental Involvement Program

The State Schools District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

Parents of Title I students will be asked to complete a survey each Spring. The survey will be available electronically and in paper format. Results from this survey will be used to develop a draft of a district parent involvement plan during the summer for the upcoming school year. This draft will be shared with parents and parents will be encouraged to provide feedback regarding the plan and suggestions for improving it.

The State Schools District will provide the 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:

The State Schools District will take actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, at the State Schools Title I Parent Conference an 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. 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.

The State Schools District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

The school district 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 Title I, Part A,
- Parent Mentoring Program
- Parent Engagement-360 degrees
- Individual School's Improvement Goals
- Decision Making via stakeholder involvement with Federal Programs budget
- the mandatory Parent Notifications of Title I, Part A
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

A. Training sessions and workshops for parents will be held at Title I schools on these topics in addition to other Parent Involvement topics deemed necessary through Parent Survey. Schools also have printed materials on many of these topics that are available to 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: each school has resources available for parents including brochures on pertinent topics as well as books, CDs, and DVDs that parents can check out and take home. Parents can also get instructional materials such as learning games, school supplies, reading material, and math manipulatives to use with their children at home.

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 utilizing Parent Involvement Coordinators as a resources and a trainers. The school PIC will advise school teachers and staff on the best methods of communication and importance of such communication. Parent survey results will be utilized to shape the content of trainings.

D. 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.

E. Communications to parents are presented in a language that they can understand, free of educational jargon. Documents are translated into Spanish and will be translated into other languages as necessary. Face-to-face and over-the-phone interpretation is available in many languages for parents with limited English.

F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.