

# Haralson County School District

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

### 2023-2024



Revised June 2, 2023

299 Robertson Ave.

Tallapoosa, GA 30176

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## What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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 and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Haralson County School District (HCSD) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives 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 HCSD'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 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 the 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. Consistent with Section 1116, the HCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

## Jointly Developed

During the annual District meeting in July, all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year. The district posted an announcement on the school district website, the district Facebook page and in the local newspaper. During this meeting, parents will review and discuss the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used its School Governance Team to review the district parent and family engagement policy.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy will be incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year.

The Haralson County School District will ensure collaboration and communication regarding all parent engagement meetings and activities with directors and employees at facilities of neglected children where residents attend Haralson County Schools. The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early in the school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.



## Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the Federal Programs' Director and Family and Community liaison 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 notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will meet in March for principals to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

## Reservation of Funds

The HCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY24 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the HCSD 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 host an annual Title I meeting in July for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school levels. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings 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 Meaningful Parent Consultation**

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component 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 two 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.

## ***Rebel Fest ~ July 15, 2023***

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Haralson County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA

Improvement Plan for the 2023-24 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be posted in the local paper. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website and Facebook page.

## ***Academic Family Nights ~ ongoing 2023-2024***

Throughout the year, each Title I school hosts quarterly Academic Family Nights for parents and family members to review and participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home and post notifications on their website and Facebook pages notifying families about the date and time of the Academic Family Nights. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites. Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through School Governance Team meetings. SGT meetings are open to the public and occur throughout the year at all HCSD schools.

# Building Capacity

The HCSD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement in order to ensure the effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs such as community engagement activities, student-led conferences, and Active Student Participation Inspires Real Engagement (ASPIRE-student led IEPs). Through these different family engagement activities, with the teacher, families set student academic goals to be addressed through at-home learning activities and strategies.

***Of Parents*** - The HCSD will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. HCSD will provide opportunities for parents to learn about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, and the required assessments for Georgia students, including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these informational sessions and community engagement meetings will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I school's newsletter.

The HCSD will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and family engagement activities, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for families with limited internet access, including copies in other languages upon request. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources, the HCSD media specialist at each Title I school provides information for parents at Academic Family Nights, conferences, and Open House. Each school will determine and announce the dates and times for these sessions.

The HCSD has established School Governance Teams comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school's Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A

programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting recordings of the council and other district meetings on the website and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners. The HCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state-funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Ready days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The HCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

***Of School Staff*** - The HCSD will conduct two trainings during the school year for principals and assistant principals to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The HCSD will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families. To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events upon request. The information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

## Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the HCSD will conduct an evaluation 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 through an annual parent survey and the School Governance Teams.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home 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 district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Governance Team to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The HCSD will use the findings from the School Governance Teams and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, 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 family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student 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.

## Adoption

This districtwide 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 State of the District meeting. This policy was adopted by the Haralson County School District on July 19, 2022 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2023.

## Mark Your Calendars

### For Parents

Open House and Plan Input Meetings

July 2023

Annual Parent Survey March 19-29, 2024

School Governance Teams Quarterly

### For Schools

Principal Meetings- Second Wednesday of every month