

# **Baldwin County Schools A Charter System of Georgia**

## **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

This plan will describe Baldwin County School District'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 and increase literacy throughout the district.

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.

### **About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

2018-2019 Revised July 17, 2018 110 North ABC Street Milledgeville, GA 31061 478-453-4176  
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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 ESSA.

Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (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 ACSD 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 Parent and Family Policy**

During the year, parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district's Title I parental involvement plan, Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP), and Parental Involvement fund allocations for the 2018- 2019 school year.

The district had information sent out to schools to advertise the meetings, call out systems, e-mails, and the announcement was posted on the district's website.

Once feedback is received it will be reviewed and taken into consideration into developing appropriate parental involvement activities. Upon final revision, elements of the district parental involvement 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 by submitting written comments to the Family Engagement Specialist or by visiting Title I Parent Engagement page of the website.

The district parent and family engagement plan will be posted on district and school web sites, made available in the parent resource center at each local school, and from District Family Engagement Specialist. The district school and public relations representative will post on social media outlets and media.

## **Reservation of Funds**

The BCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY18 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the BCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parent and family engagement programs and activities.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Parents are informed of the use and purpose of Title I funds during each school's Annual Title I Meeting and feedback for the use of these funds will be on annual survey and during spring shared decision meetings for district and schools.

Feedback received will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need the upcoming school year and as well as changes stated with the reservations of funds.

## **Strengthening Our Schools**

The district Family Engagement Specialist will provide support and assistance to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that strategies and activities are being implemented and carried out to increase literacy and educate parents.

At the beginning of the year, school administrators and district Family Engagement Specialist will meet to review family engagement requirements and activities. School administrators received a reference guide (with examples and resources) to assist with satisfying the parent engagement strategies. Family Engagement Specialist will conduct program evaluation at the school level to ensure the family engagement plans and activities are being followed, provide technical assistance, and offer other supports necessary to build family engagement.

Additionally, school teachers will receive training on how to reach out, communicate, and work with parents; as well as school administrators are to incorporate this into professional development. New teachers will be trained during monthly orientation. Webinars will be available for additional support.

## **Building School and Parent Partnerships**

The Baldwin County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure 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 Parent University workshops. For Parents

- The BCSD will utilize Parent University as a means to provide parents academic content information to increase literacy and provide information and tools that will support learning at home. The BCSD and Title I schools will work together to provide information on understanding The Georgia Standards of Excellence, Georgia Milestones, Title I, Part A requirements, technology resources to support academic progress and to monitor grades and attendance, and academic skills.

The BCSD will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guide, newsletters, and online websites to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), the BCSD technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The BCSD 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 and facilitate workshops focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Transition days so parents may obtain information and students tour the schools to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The BCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

## ***Of School Staff***

- The BCSD will conduct two trainings during the school year for principals and staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community.

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 providing interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the district website can be translated in readers language.

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.



## **Program Evaluation**

Every year, Baldwin County School District will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy and the activities at the district and school level. This review will be conducted by each school utilizing an annual parent survey and parent input meetings.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide feedback on the parent involvement activities held throughout the year. The survey will be posted on district Title I Family Engagement webpage to collect parent feedback.

Each school will conduct an input meeting to solicit parent input and feedback on parent and family engagement and to discuss the needs of the parents of the children eligible to receive Title I services related to improving student achievement.

The BCSD will use the findings from these surveys to increase and support effective parental findings, seek out ways to remove barriers, and assist in developing district and parental involvement policies.

## **Accessibility**

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement specialist will communicate and collaborate with the all Baldwin County schools 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 Baldwin County School 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 as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel various input meetings and surveys.

This plan was adopted by the Baldwin County School District July 26, 2018 and will be in effect for the period of one 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, 2018.