

Floyd County School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2018–2019

Revised July 1, 2018
600 Riverside Parkway NE
Rome, Ga. 30161
706-234-1031
www.floydboe.net

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.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Floyd County School District (FCSD) 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 FCSD'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 support 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 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, Floyd County Schools 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 stakeholder meetings in the spring, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019 school year. The district sent invitations to all parents informing them about these meetings and posted announcements through websites and other media. During these meetings, parents reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), as well as the Comprehensive Needs Assessment . Additionally, each Title I school utilized its stakeholders to review the district needs for the parent and family engagement policy for the upcoming school year. All stakeholders had an opportunity to participate in an electronic information review and survey to provide feedback.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement 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 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 district parent and family engagement policy is posted on the district websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers and or office upon request.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district parent engagement specialist (PIS) 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 and the PIS to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the PIS will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene throughout the year with principals and PIS to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings.

Reservation of Funds

The FCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY19 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the FCSD will distribute 100 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 school improvement meetings in the spring for parents to provide suggestions how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Feedback 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.

Annual Stakeholder Meetings ~ March 12 & 14, 2019

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Floyd 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 2019-20 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be shared to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website and other Media.

School Improvement Meetings ~ Spring, 2019

During this season, each Title I school will host meetings for parents and family members to participate in roundtable 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/ or email and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the meetings 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 the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.floydboe.net/TitleI to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.

Building Capacity

The FCSD 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. Some Title I schools offer Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT). APTT is an evidence-based family engagement model that builds partnerships with parents. With the teacher, families set student academic goals to be addressed through at-home learning activities and strategies. The system also conducts Local School Coordinating Council Meetings open to all stakeholders where at least two stakeholders from each school participate regularly to review and guide the school system on various issues related to student achievement.

Of Parents - The FCSD 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 students' learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program and APTT. The FCSD will provide opportunities for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these opportunities and APTT meetings will be posted and shared through each Title I school.

The FCSD will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and APTT activities, 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, the FCSD technology specialists partner with Title I schools to support and update all interested parties on technology needs. Dates and times for these opportunities will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The FCSD has established a districtwide Local School Coordinating Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school 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 updates of council and other district meetings on the website to help increase participation by utilizing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

The FCSD 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 Round up days so parents may visit the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The FCSD will also coordinate with Child Care Centers to screen children at the centers in order to assist parents that work.

Of School Staff - The FCSD will conduct trainings during the school year for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. If the school is implementing APTT, the FCSD Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) will assist APTT training for the entire school staff. The purpose of the FELT is to coordinate the sustainability and growth of APTT in the district. The FCSD will also provide 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, APTT meetings, 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 and APTT meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practical. 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 FCSD 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, stakeholders meetings, and School Improvement meetings.

In the spring, each Title I school will make available to parents a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the school

improvement meetings to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The FCSD will use the findings from the stakeholder meetings 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 Special Education and Federal Programs departments 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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
Spring 2019

School Improvement Meetings
Spring 2019
Local school site

District Stakeholder Meetings
March 12 & 14, 2019 –
County Board Office

For Schools

Kick Off Classic Training
July 27, 2018 –
Model High School

Principal and FEC Meetings
Second Tuesday of every
month

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 Stakeholder meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Floyd County School District on July 1, 2018 and will be in effect for the 2018-2019 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children by November 1, 2018.

