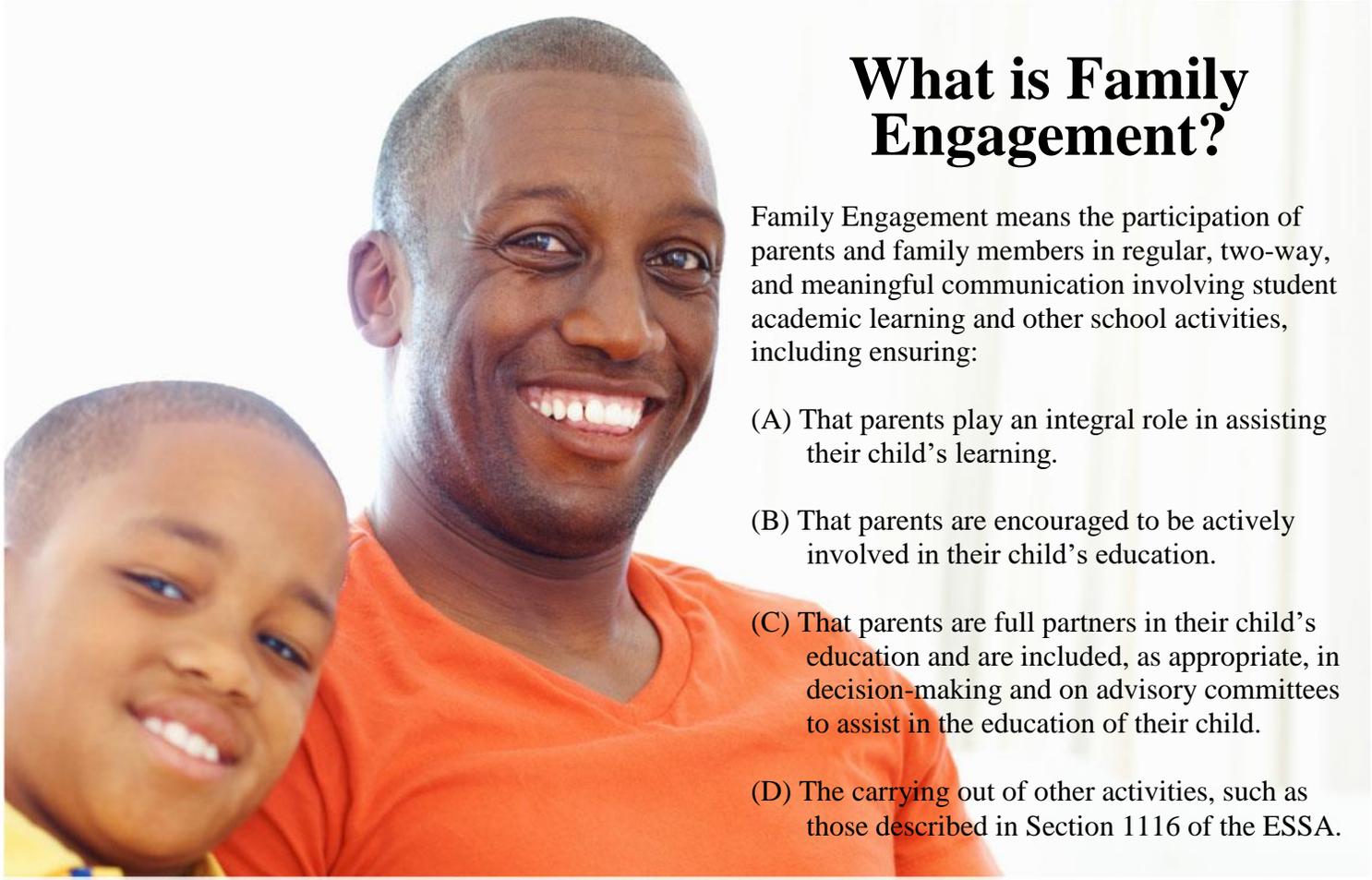




Laurens County School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2019-2020
Revised July 7, 2019
476 Firetower Road
Dublin, GA 31021
www.lcboe.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 Laurens County School District (LCSD) has developed this parent and family engagement plan 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 LCSD'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 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 LCSD 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 Stakeholder Input meetings held in the spring, all parents, and community stakeholders were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2019-2020 school year. The district sent an invitation and an email to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district and school level websites. Additionally, invitations were mailed to business and community stakeholders. Invitation flyers were posted at the district office, schools, and on the district's Facebook page. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). This included discussion and input into the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, District Improvement Plan, and reservation of funds. Additionally, each Title I school used its spring input meetings to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school.

All feedback received by July 2019 was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement plan was posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.

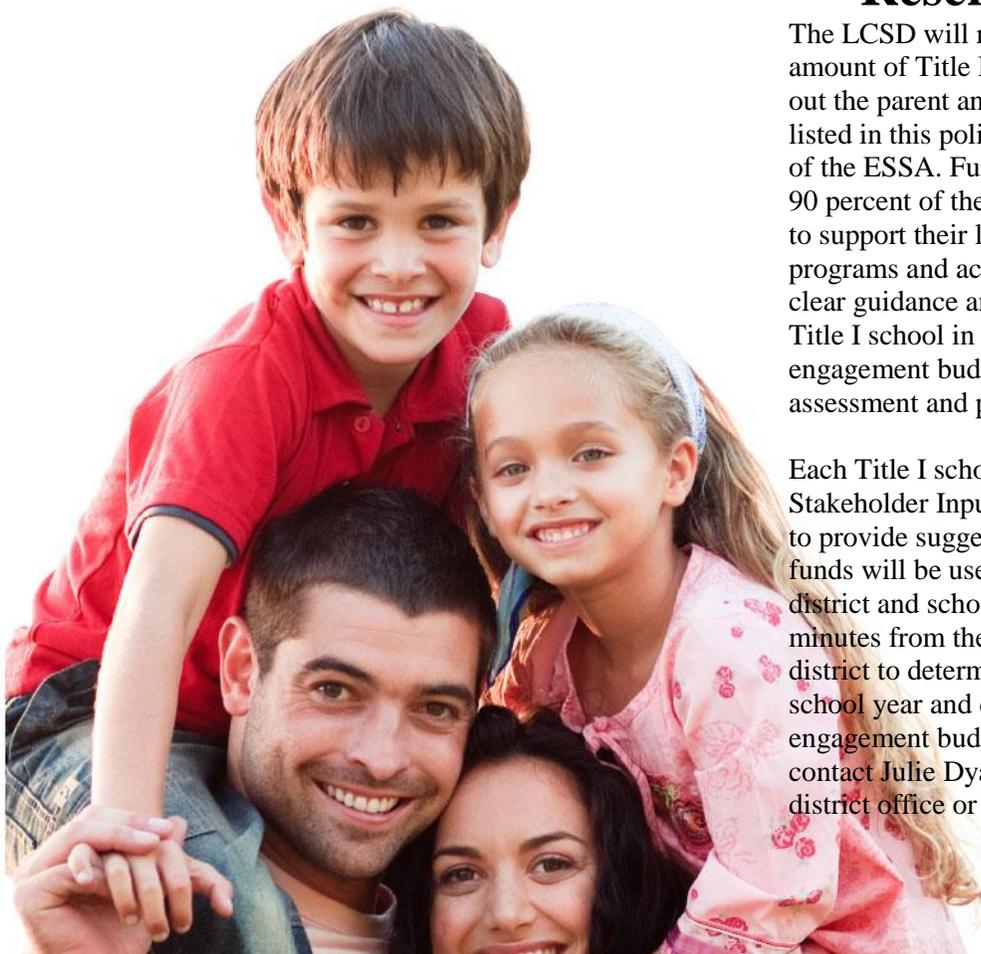
Strengthening Our School

This year, the district Federal Program's Director and the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) 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 FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district Federal Program Director and the FEC will hold regular meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school Title I Coordinators to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The LCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the LCSD 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 annual School Stakeholder Input 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 forms 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. If you have suggestions, please contact Julie Dyar, Federal Programs Director, at the district office or by email at juliedyar@lcbocoe.net.





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.

State of the District Meeting – May 2020

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Laurens County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed and sent home with students to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district and school websites.

Spring School Improvement Forums – March/April 2020

During the spring, each Title I school will host meetings for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school parent compacts, building school staff capacity, the school's family engagement plans as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home as well as emailing and/or texting parents to notify them about the date and time of the meetings. 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.lcboe.net to review the meeting documents and minutes. District input survey links will also be available.



Scan the QR code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the LCSS website.

Building Capacity

The LCSD will build school and parent capacity for strong family engagement. This capacity will ensure effective engagement of parents and family members in supporting partnerships among the Title I schools, parents, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement. To build this capacity, the LCSD will implement districtwide activities and programs.

Of Parents - The LCSD will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to the State's challenging academic standards and local and state assessments – including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district schools also offer assistance to parents in understanding of its online student information system (ASPEN) and other digital resources. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the schools' websites and shared through school messaging systems, flyers, newsletters, and/or social media postings.

In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools, including copies in other languages as needed and available.

The LCSD has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school. This council's purpose is to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. In addition, information will be shared with civic groups, community leaders, and business partners. These individuals will be invited to complete an annual stakeholder survey and participate in the annual district input meetings. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by utilizing video recordings to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

The LCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and Local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the Spring, schools will provide transition activities so parent may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Of School Staff - The LCSD 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. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The LCSD 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, 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 meetings. 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 LCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement input meetings.

Beginning the Spring, each Title I school will send home flyer advertising availability of the survey on each school's website. An opportunity for parents to request a paper copy will also be provided on the flyer. This survey for parents provides the district with 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 Forum to facilitate group discussions and to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The LCSD will use the findings from the school input 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 Federal Programs' Director will communicate and collaborate with district personnel 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

District Federal Programs'
Informational Meetings
September 2019

School Annual Title I
Informational Meetings
September/ October 2019
Local school site

Annual Parent Survey
February/ March 2020

School Improvement Forum
Meetings
March/April 2020
Local school site

State of the District
April/May 2020

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 spring stakeholder input meetings.

This policy was adopted by the Laurens County School District on June 7, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A, within the first month of fall semester.

