



**Parental Involvement Plan**  
***Oglethorpe County School System***  
***2016-2017***  
***Revised September 2, 2016***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the **Oglethorpe County School System (LEA)** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by Section 1118(a)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectation for parental involvement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

**The Oglethorpe County School System (OCSS) agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1118:**

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- 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.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.
- The school district will be governed by the following 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:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED  
LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The **Oglethorpe County School System** will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under Section 1112 and the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

Parents will be notified and given the opportunity to participate in the annual strategic planning/CLIP meeting held during the spring of each year to provide input into the design and implementation of the System Strategic Plan/CLIP and to review/revise the parent involvement plan. Additionally, throughout the school year, feedback will be collected at parent engagement activities and through annual parent surveys. These reports will be collectively reviewed at the annual strategic planning/CLIP meeting in which attendees serve in an advisory capacity and assist the school district in planning for the following school year. Revisions to the parent involvement plan will be made based on the information collected from parents and community partners.

**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The **Oglethorpe County School System** will provide the following 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:

During monthly district-wide administrative meetings, the Teaching and Learning Department will review with principals the requirements of Title I, Part A. Title I checklists will be used by the Title I Director and the Coordinator of Student Support Services to ensure that parent involvement plans, school-parent compacts, and schoolwide programs meet the requirements as outlined. As state required assessment results are received, the Director of Teaching and Learning will provide details by subgroups, grade levels or content areas, and domains to the principals, who will share the information with teachers and parents. Ongoing support through emails, face to face meetings, and overall monitoring will be held throughout the school year to provide technical assistance to schools on parent involvement activities, student academic achievement, and school performance.

## ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Oglethorpe County School System** will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual 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 (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). 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.

In order to improve the quality of its Title I, Part A schools, the Oglethorpe County School System will conduct an annual evaluation that will include identifying barriers to greater participation of parents in parental involvement activities. The Title I Director will oversee the administration of the parent survey during the winter/spring of the school year. Oglethorpe County Schools will use the findings of this survey to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement program. During the Oglethorpe County School System's strategic planning/CLIP meeting, all parents will be invited to attend and provide input. The results of the parent survey will be reviewed. Discussions will be facilitated to develop activities and initiatives for addressing the barriers as well as any other weaknesses that are identified. Revisions will then be made to the parental involvement plan to include the decisions made from the input of parents and other stakeholders.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

If the OCSS Title I, Part A allocation is greater than \$500,000, The **Oglethorpe County School System** will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

The Oglethorpe County School System will share with parents the budget for parental involvement activities and programs and how parents will be involved in providing input into how the funds are used through its district's website and through each school's annual Title I meetings. Parents will be involved in how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds will be spent by participating in the annual parent survey and by giving feedback and input at parent engagement activities throughout the district. Additionally, each school will maintain a school council and will hold meetings in which all parents are invited to give input.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The **Oglethorpe County School System** will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under other programs: Family Connection, Oglethorpe County Health Department, Advantage Behavioral Health Services, other federal programs, and parent resources at the schools as well as other collaborative partners that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Using the local agencies and programs within the community, as listed above, to help ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community.
- Informing parents of other resources within the district such as the lottery funded pre-k program and its available general and special needs preschool services.
- Providing kindergarten round-up in the spring of each school year to have mass screenings of four year olds in conjunction with programs for parents on how to help their child prepare for kindergarten.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The **Oglethorpe County School System** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as grade or content level standards and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- 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
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

To build capacity of parents, the **Oglethorpe County School System** will provide the following:

- Each school will offer activities that encourage parents and other family members to attend school functions.
- During open house or at beginning of the year meetings, teachers will communicate how their child's progress will be reported systematically to parents throughout the school year.
- Each school will provide parents with a yearly handbook or agenda book and calendar that covers school policies and procedures.
- Each school will hold an Annual Title I Meeting, which outlines the requirements of Title I, Part A and provide resources to parents to help them be successful with their students.
- Information on understanding the requirements of Title I, Part A will be provided to parents at each school's Annual Title I Meeting and will also be available on the system's website.
- Each school will have a school-parent compact that outlines how schools, teachers, parents, and students are all responsible for student achievement.
- Each school as well as the district will have a parent involvement plan that outlines how parents can be involved in their child's education.
- Newsletters, emails, and/or flyers will be sent to parents from schools to assist parents in understanding how they can help their student at home.
- Parent-teacher conferences will be held throughout the year to assist parents in understanding the course or grade level standards and their students' progress toward meeting these academic achievement standards.
- Additionally during parent conferences, parents and teachers will discuss ways to communicate effectively with their child's teacher as they seek to problem solve and offer advice/suggestions for the student's continuous improvement.
- During parent involvement workshops, parents will also be offered information on internet safety and current technology-related topics of concern.
- Parents will be invited to receive information on how to gain access, receive training, and obtain necessary information to help them understand the Power School Student Information System (as appropriate) and the school's report card.
- Report cards, progress reports, and information in PowerSchool will provide individual information on how students are progressing.
- Parents will be introduced to resources on school websites and in the school's front office.
- Each school will inform parents about the resources available to help them become full partners in the education of their children. Those resources will include, but will not be limited to the following: parenting classes, educational videos and DVDs, books and hands-on materials, educational games, websites, and information on community services.
- Grade level or content area meetings provided by the teachers will explain the state curriculum and assessments students will be taking, including any alternate assessments.
- The names and contact information for school personnel will be posted on each school's website.
- Schools will use social media such as Facebook and will send newsletters, emails, flyers, and/or all-calls and texts to keep parents abreast of school functions.
- School websites and/or social media access will be kept current with information for parents.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The **Oglethorpe County School System** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools by:

- Providing information and presentations to principals during administrative council system-wide meetings on the importance of parental involvement and ways to encourage parent engagement.
- Having administrators in the schools, with the assistance of parents or other school personnel, present information and resources to teachers and staff during faculty meetings.
- Facilitating opportunities for school councils and the Parent Mentor to provide methods and ideas for communicating with parents as equal partners.
- Holding an annual strategic planning meeting in which stakeholders provide ideas for working with parents and communicating with them as equal partners.
- Providing a Month-at-a-Glance calendar and guide of all monthly Teaching and Learning events and available resources.