



PART I

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Elbert County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- 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, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). 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.
- The school district will incorporate this LEA parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 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 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 school district will be governed by the following statutory 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) 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 at school.*
- (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 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II.

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

1. The Elbert County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under Section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - District Parent Advisory committee will be established with representation from each school. The committee will be utilized to participate in district level meetings regarding parental involvement and other areas as deemed appropriate.
 - The Title I Director will conduct an annual meeting of stakeholders (District Parent Advisory Committee, administrators, teachers, parents, and community members) to review and update the District Parental Involvement Plan. All parents will be invited to attend.
 - The annual meeting will be advertised in the local newspaper, and on the local radio station, on the district and each school's website, social media, and school newsletters.
 - Annual parent involvement survey results will be compiled and will inform the District Parental Involvement Plan
 - Each school's parental involvement plan will be reviewed annually to be incorporated into the development and revision of the LEA's plan.
 - Documentation from each school reflecting that all parents have been informed and involved in the review and revision of school level Parent Involvement Plans will be required (copies of parent invite letters, school newsletters, school's websites, meeting agendas, sign-in sheets with signatures and respective role, minutes from meetings are examples of required documentation).
 - Posts the LEA's Parental Involvement Plan on the district's website with a link for parents to make comments regarding the plan.

2. The Elbert County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under Section 1116 of the ESEA:

- The Title I Director will conduct a meeting of all stakeholders (District Parent Advisory Committee, administrators, parents, and community members) to review and update the Consolidated LEA's Improvement Plan (CLIP). The meeting will be advertised in the newspaper, local radio, district's website, each school's website, texts, and school newsletters.
- The LEA requires each school to conduct meetings such as the school governance team, school council, and/or other parent groups each year for the purpose of reviewing Title I Parent Involvement Plans, Title I Schoolwide Plans, Title I School Parent Compacts, school goals, and obtaining input regarding methods for Title I expenditures to promote student academic achievement.
- The Title I Director will conduct surveys on an annual basis to obtain feedback regarding school improvement initiatives. Survey results, parent meeting and workshops, parent participation on school committees, school councils, and school improvement leadership teams will inform the process of school review and improvement.

3. The Elbert County School District 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:

- The Title I Director will conduct an annual meeting to include District Office Leaders, principals from each school, the District Parent Advisory Team, and community members to review current parental involvement activities that are being implemented at the district and school levels. A review of the effectiveness of the programs will be the major focus. Survey data will inform the district and schools regarding the parental involvement activities that have made a positive impact on student academic achievement.
- The Title I Director will meet with each principal at the beginning of the school year to plan the Annual Title I meeting that informs parents and the staff regarding Title I requirements. Agendas, sign in sheets and minutes will be required for documentation.
- Schools will be required to schedule a minimum of two parental activities and/or workshops that are directly linked to student academic achievement. The Title I Director will meet with each principal to discuss the activities and/or workshops and to schedule the meetings. The two meetings are in addition to the required annual Title I Meeting that is conducted by the Title I Director along with the principal or designee.

- Schools will continue to schedule all other parental involvement activities/workshops to present significant information relevant to each school such as transition meetings for parents, grade level standards, local and state assessments, etc.
 - Survey results will be analyzed to determine parent needs and/or barriers that limit parent involvement, and to inform the planning of the parental activities and/or workshops at each school level.
 - The Title I Director will meet with the principal and the Title I Facilitator at each school a minimum of three times per school year. The purpose of these meetings is to provide technical assistance and to stay abreast of the needs of the school and Title I requirements.
 - The Title I Director will provide annual staff and professional development to administrators and teachers on the following: appropriate use of parent involvement Title I Funds, welcoming and positive school environments, frequent and positive two way communication, and promoting parents as volunteers and/or serving on school level parent advisory and/or other parent committees.
4. The Elbert County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: [Insert programs, such as: Head Start, Even Start, Parents As Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and state-operated preschool programs], by:
- Administrators and teachers continue to seek methods to involve parents in school activities and especially the transition to Kindergarten. The primary school principal schedules a time with the Pre-K Director in the spring to meet with the parents of rising Kindergarten students to provide information and educational resource packets. The packets promote literacy and methods for parents to read with and to children. The State's academic content standards, academic achievement standards, and the State and local academic assessments are shared with parents at this meeting.
 - Community Partnership collaborates with the Elbert County School District to meet district and school level needs.
 - The Instructional Reading Coach, Assistant Superintendent, and the Pre-K Director will work together to provide language skills to Pre-K students.
5. The Elbert County School District 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.

- The annual evaluation will be conducted by compiling results from the parental involvement surveys to inform the District Parent Involvement Plan.
- The Title I Director will conduct a meeting in the spring with district staff, principals, the District Parent Advisory committee, community members, and parents to review the survey findings and collaborate regarding the revision of the plan. Stakeholders will be informed of the meeting via newspaper, radio station, district websites, school websites, school newsletters, and texts.
- The revised District Parent Involvement Plan will be shared by posting on the district's website, the school's websites, at Open House at each school, and at each school's council meetings and/or first parent meeting at each school.
- The parent's role will be to assist with analyzing survey results, provide input to improve the District Parental Involvement Plan, assist in the advertisement of parent meetings, and the gathering of additional parent feedback and suggestions for improvement.

1. The Elbert County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph:

- 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 Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators
- The Title I Director with school level principals will plan and schedule annual Title I meetings at each school to present required Title I information and other significant information regarding academics and school level expectations.
 - Annual district-wide Open House
 - District wide scheduled parent/teacher conferences (Nov./Feb.)
 - District-wide Parent Advisory Council
 - Academic activities/workshops
 - School level informative meetings/workshops
 - School level transition meetings
 - School level volunteer/mentor programs
 - School council and other parent advisory committees

- School level extra-curricular activities (Breakfast w/ Santa, Book Fairs, Student Incentives, Awards Day, Field Trips, Grandparent's Day, Field Day, American Education Week, Read Across America)
 - District and school level parent communications (e-mails, newsletters, phone contacts, letters, notes, media, texts, newspaper, radio, websites, etc.)
- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:
- Making available the Parent Resource Center Mondays through Fridays from 8:00 until 2:00p.m. A vast amount of materials and resources can be checked out by parents.
 - Utilizing the school social worker to provide materials and resources to parents of students that are identified as Migrant or Homeless.
 - Providing resources and training for Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS).
 - Providing resources and training for state and local assessments.
 - Providing methods to monitor child's progress and collaborate with educators to improve his/her performance.
 - Providing initiatives to encourage and promote parent participation in educational decisions.
 - Making available resource materials for parents at each school, posted on each school's website/district website, and periodically distributed by the LEA. Resources are available in multiple languages.
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff 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:
- The Parent Involvement Coordinator provides support to parents and families such as accompanying parents to school meetings, making home visits to deliver information and offer support to parents who do not have transportation to travel to the center, host parent training opportunities, and any initiative necessary to build effective communication between home and school.
 - The school councils serve as a liaison between the school and parents as well as other committees and meetings that parents participate (School Improvement Leadership Meetings, Consolidate LEA's Improvement Plan (CLIP), District Parent Advisory Committee, School Level Parent Advisory Committee)

- Administrators at the school level provide professional learning through SILT meetings, grade level meetings, printed resources, and e-mails to educate school personnel on the value of working with parents.
 - Retain required communication logs between educators and parents
 - Administrators at the district level work with RESA and GaDOE to promote parental involvement.
 - ESOL instructors provide training for teachers regarding strategies to reach non-English speaking parents. ESOL instructors find methods to translate materials for non-English speaking parents.
 - Special Education Director utilizes the Parent Involvement Coordinator for the same parental involvement services as Title I.
 - The School Social Worker provides services for parents of Migrant and Homeless students that address their needs through home visits, phone contacts and letters. A minimum of two Parental Advisory Committee meetings are conducted by the School Social Worker to promote parental involvement regarding the education of their children.
 - The Title I Director will meet with school and district leaders and provide Technical Assistance regarding this area and communicate specific areas that the schools will be required to provide training to its staff.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:
- Administrators and teachers continue to seek methods to involve parents in school activities and especially the transition to Kindergarten. The primary school principal schedules a time with the Pre-K Director in the spring to meet with the parents of rising Kindergarten students to provide information and educational resource packets. The packets promote literacy and methods for parents to read with and to children.
 - Pre-K students are bused to the primary school in the spring to visit the facility as part of the transition process.
 - The Title I Director communicates regularly with the Special Education Director regarding the coordination of parental activities/workshops with other agencies.
 - The Title I Coordinator maintains regular communication with the district's Homeless Liaison, Migrant Coordinator, Special Ed. Director, and Parent Involvement Coordinator to ensure the appropriate use of Title I funds to support students.
 - The Title I Parent Involvement Coordinator serves as a support for all parents, including parents of students with disabilities. She often attends IEP meetings with parents and collaborates with the Title I Director.
 - Community Partnership collaborates with the Elbert County School District to meet district and school level needs.

- Title I Director will collaborate with the Early Learning Centers to improve parental involvement by including them in workshops/activities as deemed appropriate.
 - The Instructional Reading Coach, Assistant Superintendent, and the Pre-K Director will work together to provide language skills to Pre-K students.
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- All required and significant school and district level correspondence will be translated in Spanish, with other languages available upon request
 - Interpreters are provided for parent conferences and other meetings when requested by parents
 - Parents that speak a language other than English are allowed to bring an interpreter to assist in translating information
 - School newsletters
 - Flyers sent home by students to communicate upcoming school and district level meetings
 - School newsletters
 - District websites
 - School level websites
 - Texts
 - Newspaper announcements
 - Radio announcements
 - E-mail announcements through school and grade level websites
- F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request.
- Title I parent surveys will be conducted in the spring and results used to plan parent involvement activities at the school and district levels
 - Parent/guardians will be surveyed at school level activities to determine areas of support needed

PART III.

DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Elbert County School district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement by:

- Maximizing parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Establishing a LEA parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities

PART IV.

AGREEMENT

This LEA parental involvement plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs.

This plan was developed by the Elbert County School District on 05/13/14 and will be in effect for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children by posting on the district and school level websites and placing a copy in each of the schools' media centers.