



Pickens County Schools

District Parent Involvement Plan

2016-2017

Revised on September 12, 2016

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Pickens County Board of Education recognizes that student academic success is directly linked, by research, to the quantity and quality of parental involvement. In an effort to provide an environment in which all Pickens County students have maximum opportunities to achieve their academic goals, Pickens County Schools will build capacity for parent involvement by working collaboratively with the parents. The goals of this collaboration will be to increase student academic performance and improve the quality of our schools by involving parents and community members in supporting school programs, expanding quality learning opportunities, reducing or removing barriers to participation, communicating information, and creating and maintaining a relevant parent involvement plan which is in compliance with the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA)*.

The District Parent Involvement Coordinator took the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of this plan:

- A survey was made available during the Spring of 2016 to all parents of students in Title I schools. The results of the surveys were analyzed and used in making decisions regarding this plan.
- PCPAC meetings were held on August 23, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. All parents of students in Title I schools were invited to attend. Parents were given the opportunity to provide input into the development of the plan.

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Pickens County Schools 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 district wide parental involvement plan into its LEA implementation 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 and, 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 Georgia Department of Education.

The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement are spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one 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 DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- Hold two PCPAC meetings per school year to which all parents are invited, in a timely manner, asking for parent input. Parents are encouraged to attend the PCPAC meetings (Pickens County Parent Action Committee) where the district's LEA implementation plan, the District Wide Parent Involvement Plan, School Level Parent Involvement Plans, Federal Programs Survey, and Compacts are all reviewed.
- Conduct a survey of all parents to gather input into the aforementioned plans and programs.

Pickens County Schools will reserve not less than one percent of its Title I, Part A allocation for parental involvement to build parent capacity. Building parent capacity includes promoting family literacy and technology skills.

- These funds are used to help pay a portion of the District Parent Involvement Coordinator's salary and benefits. This is discussed and open for review each year during the PCPAC meeting. The district ensures that the entire one percent of required parent involvement funds are used to support this purpose.

Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- During the spring of each year, all parents will be invited to school level parent meetings where they will have the opportunity to review data and provide input into the school's Schoolwide Program Plan.

Pickens County Schools 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 district will involve school level personnel in all parent meetings. All feedback from meetings and survey results will be shared with school-level administrators with the intent they share the information in their buildings and utilize feedback when developing programming for parents.
- Technical assistance will be provided to school-level administrators, academic coaches, and designated personnel by the Director of Federal Programs and the District Parent Involvement Coordinator to support development of plans and compacts, use of parent involvement funds, and development of programs that build parent capacity. Assistance will be provided via district-level trainings and on-site visits.
- Other support will be provided to parents and school level personnel on an as needed basis when identified through observations or requests.

Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan 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 plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parental involvement plans.

- The survey will be sent to all parents of Title I students, in a language they can understand, asking specific questions that will provide information regarding the effectiveness of the district's Title I programs. The District Parent Involvement Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the survey of all parents.
- Parents will also be given the opportunity to evaluate programming by providing feedback during the spring PCPAC meeting.
- The results of the survey and the feedback from the PCPAC meeting will be analyzed and used to develop strategic parent programming for the upcoming school year which will become a part of the revised District Parent Involvement Plan.

Pickens County Schools will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order 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 specifically described below:

- 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 topics such as the following:
 - 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

- 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, through such programs as literacy and technology training, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.
 - Math- providing strategies that can be used at home and websites recommended for math support
 - Literacy - providing strategies that can be used at home
 - Technology - how to search for help on the internet when a child struggles with homework

- The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.
 - District level personnel will provide training to school level personnel during district level meetings regarding reaching out to parents, involving parents as stakeholders, building parent capacity, responding to parents, and how to effectively communicate with parents including using language that parents can understand. It will be expected that school-level administrators train their faculty and staff using the same training material.

- 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.
 - Parent programs are offered during the spring of each school year to ensure success for rising Kindergarten students and to make the transition to Kindergarten easier. Training will focus on literacy and numeracy strategies that are developmentally appropriate for young children.
 - Written materials, such as brochures, will be provided to parents with literacy and numeracy strategies that are developmentally appropriate for young children.

- 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:
 - Communication will be sent via robocalls, flyers and newsletters, and the District and School websites
 - Communication will be translated (to the extent practicable). Translators will be available at Open House and Title I meetings (to the extent practicable).

- Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.
 - Parent forums where parents have an opportunity to discuss ways that will help promote student achievement and learning for children.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

NOTE: The District Wide Parental Involvement Plan may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the 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, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- Establishing a district wide parent advisory council (PCPAC) to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A Programs.

APPROVAL

This plan was approved and went into effect on September 25, 2016. Please contact Sunita Holloway at 706-253-1700 if you have any comments or questions regarding this plan.