



Pickens County School District

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2017-2018

Revised on July 25, 2017

Pickens County School District . 100 D.B. Carroll Street . Jasper, GA 30143 . 706-253-1700

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Pickens County School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement plan that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The plan establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Pickens County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members 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 and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA 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 in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

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 1116 of the ESEA

THIS PLAN WAS JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Pickens County School District took the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- *A survey was made available during the Spring of 2017 to all parents of students in Title I schools. The results of the surveys were analyzed and used in making decisions regarding this plan.*
- *Pickens County Parent Actions Committee (PC PAC) meetings were held on May 8, 2017, at 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. All parents of students in Title I schools were invited to attend. Notification of the meeting was provided in the newspaper, on the district's website, through an Infinite Campus message, via a Facebook post, and through flyers that were sent home to all students in Title I schools. Parents were given the opportunity to evaluate the current year's Parent Engagement Program and Instructional Program. They also had the opportunity to provide input into the development of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan for 2017-2018, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, the District Improvement Plan, and the use of the 1% parent involvement funds.*
- *Members of the Chamber of Commerce, Education and Workforce Committee participated in providing input into the Comprehensive Needs Assessment which impacted the District Improvement Plan and the District's Parent and Family Engagement Plan. This meeting was held on May 5, 2017.*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND COLLABORATION

The Pickens County School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- *Technical assistance will be provided to school-level administrators, parents, academic coaches, and designated personnel by the Director of Federal Programs to support development of school improvement and family engagement plans and compacts, use of parent involvement funds, and development of programs that build parent capacity. Assistance will be provided via Pickens County Parent Action Committee (PC PAC) meetings, district-level trainings, on-site visits, phone conferencing, and communications through Google Drive and Gmail.*
- *The superintendent plans to establish a parent advisory committee that will provide for two-way communication between the district leadership and the parents of the Pickens County School District Community.*
- *Collaboration takes place between the Chamber of Commerce, Education and Workforce Committee and the Pickens County School District in an effort to provide support and programming that will positively impact the future workforce of Pickens County.*
- *Other support will be provided to parents and school level personnel on an as needed basis when identified through observations or requests.*

ANNUAL EVALUATION AND JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF FUTURE PLANS

The Pickens County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement plan to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement plan.

- *The Parent and Family Engagement survey will be sent to all parents, in a language they can understand when practicable, asking specific questions that will provide information regarding the effectiveness of the district's Title programs and Parent and Family Engagement Programming. The Director of Federal Programs will be responsible for conducting the survey of all parents. This will take place during the spring of 2018.*
- *Parents will also be given the opportunity to evaluate programming by providing feedback during the spring Parent Action Committee (PC PAC) meetings and to provide input for future programming.*
- *The results of the survey and the feedback from the PC PAC meetings 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 and Family Engagement Plan. Results will also be used in the development of the District's Comprehensive Needs Assessment, District's Improvement Plan, and School-level Improvement Plans. The District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, District Comprehensive Needs Assessment, and District Improvement Plan are three components of the Comprehensive LEA Implementation Plan required of federal programs.*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Pickens County School District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- *Parents are given the opportunity to participate in decisions regarding the use of Parent and Family Engagement Funds through an open response question on the Parent Involvement Survey and by providing input during the Parent Action Committee (PC PAC) meetings in May and August.*
- *Ten percent of the one percent funds are kept at the district level to support parent and family engagement initiatives at the district level. Ninety percent of the Parent and Family Engagement funds are distributed to the schools to support building parent capacity at the school level that align to student achievement efforts and evidence-based interventions as outlined in each school's School Improvement Plan.*
- *The district ensures that the entire one percent of required parent involvement funds are used to support parent and family engagement activities.*

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Pickens County School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Committee; Head Start; Private Pre-K programs in Pickens County; Chamber of Commerce, Education and Workforce Committee; PTOs; and School Advisory Councils that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by collaborating; sharing ideas that improve parent, family, and community involvement; sharing ideas on transitioning from one program or school to the next, and by braiding resources to support programming.

TRANSITIONS

Pre-K to Elementary School: *The district works with all local Pre-K programs including the Pickens County Schools' Bright from the Start Pre-K, the inclusion Pre-K program within the district, the local Head Start Program, and private Pre-K institutions to help children transition from preschool programs to elementary school. Collaboration with preschool programs occurs throughout the school year to discuss curriculum and parent engagement activities that support the transition. The district provides training to principals on building parent capacity activities that can be done at the school level to ease the transition from Pre-K to Kindergarten. Printed materials, books, and manipulatives are provided to the parents of preschool children who participate in training in an effort to help with this transition.*

Elementary to Middle School and Middle School to High School: *Each of the middle schools and the high school offer a time for all rising 6th grade students and 9th grade students respectively to visit the school they will attend. During the visit, they may receive information via a presentation, a tour of the school, and a packet they can take home. A parent night is also held where the same information and activities are conducted.*

BUILDING CAPACITY

The Pickens County School District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing training on the various facets of Building Parent Capacity during the beginning of the school year Parent Action Committee (PC PAC) meeting held in August. This will be under the leadership of the Director of Federal Programs. During the training session, school leaders and parents will work together to brainstorm and plan activities that build parent capacity, build staff capacity in working with parents, activities that support transition, communication, and other topics that parents feel are worthy of including that correlate with the intent of building parent capacity and parent and family engagement programming. An emphasis will be placed on collaborating and blending programming from Title I, Family and Parent Engagement with PTOs and School Advisory Councils.

Training on Building Parent Capacity will include the following topics:

- *The challenging State Academic Standards and the Curriculum used by the school*
- *The State and Local Academic Assessments including alternate assessments and the Georgia Milestones assessment*
- *The requirements of Title I, Part A*
- *How to monitor their child's progress*
- *How to work with educators and be an advocate for their child(ren)*
- *Curriculum Nights to include activities and materials that can be used at home when working with children to support Reading, Writing, Math, Science, and Social Studies*
- *Use of technology to review child's progress and to support the core academics*

- *Homework and Study Tips*
- *Preparing preschool children for elementary school (training and materials)*
- *The importance of summer reading (training and materials)*

Training on Building Staff Capacity to Work with Parents as Equal Partners will include the following topics:

- *Establishing a welcoming environment*
- *Building ties between the school, parents, and community*
- *How to develop effective parent programming and activities that promote literacy and math skills*
- *How to have an effective parent-teacher conference*
- *How to include parents in training staff*
- *How to respond to other requests made by parents*
- *How to use parent involvement funds effectively to support programming*

Training and emphasis on Communication will include the following topics:

- *Providing communications and school reports in parent friendly language and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand*
- *Communicating in a variety of formats including flyers, website announcements, Robocalls, Infinite Campus, Facebook, face-to-face, and personal phone calls*

Parent Requests

- *Other requests made by parents will be considered for parent and family engagement programming and activities.*

The Director of Federal Programs will attend the Parent and Family Engagement Conference in February 2018 to build a toolkit of ideas and activities that can be brought back and shared with school leaders and parents. School leaders and parents may be invited to participate in this conference once it is announced and registration information is available pending available funding and alignment to each school's School Improvement Plan.

REVISION, DISTRIBUTION, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

This plan was revised by the Pickens County School District on July 25, 2017, and will be in effect for the period of the 2017-2018 school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 15, 2017. A copy of this plan will be posted on the district website and will be available as a printed copy at the school board office.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Sunita Holloway, Director of Federal Programs by phone at 706-253-1700 or by email at sunitaholloway@pickenscountyschools.org.