



**Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level  
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan  
*Dade County Schools*  
2021-2022  
*Adopted on July 21, 2021***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Dade County Schools 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 policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful Parent and Family Engagement. It describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific Parent and Family engagement activities. It is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

Title I provides federal funds to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and close educational achievement gaps. These funds pay for extra educational services to help at-risk students achieve and succeed regardless of any disadvantages through no fault of their own.

**The Dade County School System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

- Dade County Schools will jointly develop with parents and distribute to parents of participating children a Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of participating children agree on.
- Dade County Schools will notify parents about the Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format. To the best of their ability, the Dade County School District will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents in a language they understand, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1116 of ESSA. The district will include alternative formats upon request.
- Dade County Schools will make the Parental Involvement Policy available to the local community.

- Dade County Schools will periodically update the Parental Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.
- Dade County Schools will adopt the school-parent compact as a component of its Parental Involvement Policy.
- Dade County Schools agree to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement. It 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:
  - Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
  - Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
  - 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
  - Other activities are carried out, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESSA
  - Dade County Schools will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the PIRC in the State.

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The Dade County School System will take 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 ESSA:

The school system will gather and disseminate to parents for review the following materials, the School's Parental Involvement Policy, the School-Parent Compact, Parent Notices from the Title I, Part A Non-Regulatory Guidance, District-Wide Parental Involvement Policy, and the school's Parental Involvement Policy.

The school system will notify parents about meetings through:

- School memos
- Regular Title I parent meetings
- Infinite Campus Messenger
- School Council meetings
- Parent/Teacher conferences
- Written and oral input from parents will be solicited through Title I parent meetings, School Council meetings, parent/teacher conferences, school newsletters, school website, and other regular written communications with parents
- Policy posted on the school website
- School parent involvement policy will be distributed to parents at the beginning of each school year through student form packets, or paper copies are available upon request

The school system will provide parents of participating children with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet through:

- Title I parent meetings

- School Council meetings
- Parent/teacher conferences
- School newsletters
- School website and other regular written communications with parents

Dade County Schools will help with reasonable requests associated with parental involvement activities, including assisting with transportation and childcare, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Dade County School System will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective Parent and Family engagement 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 is provided to parents and staff through whole group trainings, one-on-one meetings, phone calls, emails, and other electronic platforms. Guidance is provided with regard to the following topics:

- Stakeholder Input
- Parent Involvement Plan
- School-Parent Compacts
- Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)
- PTO workshops
- List of websites
- School-sponsored trainings and workshops
- Distribution
- Notification of School Status
- Annual Title I Meeting
- Building Parent Capacity - holding regular parent meetings at the school and district level
- Building Staff Capacity – encouraging staff to attend parental involvement workshops and conferences, web-based learning, and staff development
- Family Connections Meetings for parents, community members, business leaders – hosted by the Dade First Family Connection Coordinator (advertised by Dade First)

Parent and Family engagement activities at the system level are coordinated between our Title I programs in our schools. Parent and Family engagement activities are coordinated with community-wide programs such as Family Connection, HeadStart, and other community stakeholder events. Translation of information will be made available if needed.

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Dade County School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family engagement policy 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 their children's learning, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the evaluation findings of its Parent and Family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement and to revise, if necessary, its Parent and Family engagement policies.

The Dade County School Parent Involvement Coordinator will meet annually with school-level administration, district personnel, and parents to review the previous year's Parent and Staff Needs Assessments (survey), action plan if needed, School-Parent Compacts and meet the changing needs of parents and the school through:

- School Council meetings
- Title I meetings
- PTO meetings
- Parent survey data
  - identify needs of parents
  - identify areas in which teachers require support for working with parents
  - Surveys will be made available online and on paper
- Parent/Teacher conferences
  - Parental involvement is promoted by offering parent meetings at a variety of times to accommodate parent schedules
- Every Title I school will provide information to parents in English and another language as needed

The Dade County School System will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the following:

- Dade County Schools participates in Title I
- Explain the requirements of Title I
- Explain their rights to be involved as outlined in Title I, Part A Parental Involvement; the school-parent compact, the district-wide parental involvement policy, and the school's parental involvement policy

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The Dade County School System 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.

**Dade County Schools does not have a required set aside for Parent Family Engagement.**

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The Dade County School System will coordinate and integrate Parent and Family engagement strategies with Parent and Family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: (Head Start, local Pre-K Programs, Dade First Family Connection, and our local library) that encourage and support parents to fully participating in the education of their children by:

Some of the activities throughout the year may include:

- Open House (Parent Orientation)
- Literacy Night
- Math Night
- Curriculum Nights
- STEM Night
- Homework and Study Tips
- Graduation/Transition from elementary to middle school
- Academic information is sent home weekly/Bookbags with activities
- Websites that support instruction (e.g., Khan Academy, ST Math, iReady, USA Test Prep)
- Communication of student work and schoolwide/district/community events go home to parents
- Summer Reading Program

Parent and Family engagement activities are coordinated with community-wide programs such as Family Connection, Head Start, and other community stakeholder events. (Dade 1<sup>st</sup> Family Connection Meetings are advertised by the Coordinator on a monthly basis.) Meeting notices and workshop materials are made available in print and online via school and district webpages. Families in need of translation are provided avenues to request support for meetings, school events, and workshops.

The Dade County School System operates a Preschool program that addresses regular education students and students with disabilities. Our district encourages parental involvement with pre-kindergarten students to assist in the effort of school readiness.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND SCHOOL STAFF**

The Dade County School System will build the parent's and school staff's capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership between the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) 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 (information provided to parents explaining content standards and expectations of students' achievement through literature, newsletters, and parent conferences)
- The State's student academic achievement standards
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

The Dade County School System will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement 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:

- Curriculum Nights
- Parent Trainings
- Georgia Milestones Information (test-taking tips provided to parents)
- Parental access to the Parent Resource Room and other resources such as websites, parent organizations, etc

The Dade County School System will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

- Utilizing the Georgia Department of Education website by using training materials with staff, including conferences and webinars
- Dedicate faculty meetings to provide training to build capacity to work with parents as equal partners
- Redelivery of Professional Learning
- The school district will coordinate and integrate parental engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Preschools, and other programs

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

The Dade County School System provides additional discretionary activities for Parent and Family engagement that the school system, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1116e of ESSA:

- Trainings: involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
  - Parent Involvement District Coordinator will work with district administration to solicit parent input in planning ongoing staff development training for system employees
- Maximize family engagement 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
  - Each Title 1 school's administrator ensures that school meetings are conducted at various times and is available to communicate the content of meetings in family-friendly terms. The administrator also facilitates difficult-to-schedule conferences and is open to conducting in-home conferences and teleconferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and with parents who cannot attend those conferences at school.

## **ADOPTION**

This LEA Parent and Family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced

by collaboration of stakeholders including parents, school and district staff, development of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, and CLIP review meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Dade County School District on July 21, 2021, and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2021, which includes posting on the district website, a paper copy distributed at each Title I school, and on file in the Dade County Schools district office located at 52 Tradition Lane Trenton, GA 30752. The Dade County School District welcomes feedback on this plan throughout the school year: in writing at our Title, I schools, in writing at the board of education office, and via email to Cynthia Daniels at [cynthiadaniels@dadecs.org](mailto:cynthiadaniels@dadecs.org).