

DCBOE District Parent Family Engagement Plan 2018-2019

Revised August 15, 2018

Part I: Description of How Decatur County School System Will Implement Required Districtwide Parent Family Engagement Policy Components



The Decatur 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 ESSA:

During the annual District CLIP meeting in June, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2018-2019 school year. The district sent an email and personal mailed invites to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). During the first week of June each Title I school used its School/ Parent Improvement team to review the district parent and family engagement policy.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on the district website. A copy is made available in the district's parent resource center.

The Decatur County School System 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:

Decatur County Schools Parent Family Engagement Coordinator (PFEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Decatur County Schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PFEC to help improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication, community and school visits, the district and the PFEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school PFE contacts to review family engagement plans and activities throughout the school year.

The Decatur 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 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 :

- Assisting parent/guardians in understanding the State's academic content standards and academic achievement standards and National Education Goals
- Assisting parent/guardians in understanding the requirements of Title I Part A
- Assisting parent/guardians in monitoring their child's academic progress
- Assisting parent/guardians in understanding state and local assessments
- Assisting parent/guardians in knowing how to work with educators to improve achievement
- Providing opportunity for parents/guardians to request training on topics and specific workshop opportunities through to provide materials and training to implementing effective parent involvement programs.
- Working with school staff, with input of parents, in understanding the value of parental involvement and how to work with parents' as partners by building ties to strengthen the capacity for student achievement.
- Volunteer/Chaperone Training



The Decatur 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 that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Partnering with the following facilities to disseminate notifications of parent & family engagement activities and workshop information through district newsletters ;

- Head Start
- Family Connections
- Day Care Facilities listed on Kids Count.org/com
- YMCA, ATLAS, 101 Mentoring
- Local Faith Based Organizations
- Civic Groups: Kiwanis, Rotary, Lions
- Bainbridge Decatur County Chamber of Commerce , City & County
- DFACS
- Kids & Cops
- Salvation Army, Goodwill Industries

The Decatur 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 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

The DCBOE will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY19 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the DCBOE will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual School Improvement Forum in June for parents to provide suggestions how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Feedback forms and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

The Decatur County School System 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 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 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 policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Evaluation tools will include, but not limited to:

- Spring- Parent & Student Survey
- Summer- Administrative Survey
- Ongoing- Opportunity for feedback, verbal & written; websites; workshops & school events; evaluation forms

Part II

Description of How Decatur County School System Will Implement Required District wide Parent Family Engagement Policy Components

1. *The Decatur County School System 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:*

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 topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

Workshops (school, district or community venues) will be offered, electronic information will be available & literature will be provided:

To assist parents in understanding the State's academic content standards, - GSE

To assist parents in understanding the State's student academic achievement & growth measure - CCRPI

To assist parents in understanding the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,- Local Benchmarks, GKIDS, Writing, GA Milestone Assessment System

To inform parents of the requirements of TITLE I, Part A

Additional workshops, information sessions & literature may be distributed on the following topics:

Parent Portal Training, Literacy Awareness, How to Work with Educators, Positive Parenting, and more.

Parents will be informed of workshop opportunities through various modes of communication, such as; School Messenger, Progress Reports, Report Cards, Parent Conferences & Social Media (FB, Instagram, Remind, DoJo), newspaper & radio

One-On-One discussions and additional guidance may be provided by School PI Contacts or (DFEC) District Family Engagement Coordinator.

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:

Parent workshop sessions, take-home materials (books, tapes, videos, computer software, etc.) parent flyers, Decatur County Schools Attendance and Discipline Policies, Parent Resource Centers at district and local schools , websites, Student Handbooks, newspaper articles, Town Hall Meetings, Parent & Family Engagement "On the Road", Early Learners Workshops

C. 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, by:

Providing opportunities for School Social Workers and Homeless Parent Liaisons to make home visits, provide training for school personnel; Parent Conference Nights throughout the year and provide workshops about School-Parent Compact; Feedback Opportunities

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, and 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:

Participating in partnership meetings, communicating regularly via email, telephone and meetings, Early Learner workshops, CAFÉ Literacy Campaign, 30 Million Words Training (PLU) to daycare providers

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:

Providing newsletters, announcements, other school-related documents in the parents' native language by using translators or Google Translate, providing interpreters for parent workshops and conferences, utilizing School Messenger, utilizing the Parent Involvement School Contacts and District PI Coordinator to communicate with parents, faith-based community, maintaining the District Website with School Links, and Translation Menu Preferences provided on District and School Websites & system-based social media, Visually Impaired Assistive Component to Website

F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.