



Ware County School District Parent Involvement Plan

What is Parent Involvement?

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, 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.
- c) That parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making 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.

About the Parental Involvement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Ware County School District (WCSD) has developed this parental involvement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe WCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, to stay in school longer

and to enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive parental involvement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1118, the WCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

Jointly Developed

All parents and stakeholders were invited to participate and provide suggestions or ideas to improve this district parental involvement policy for the 2016-2017 school year. The district published an announcement in the local newspaper, posted flyers in all schools, placed an announcement on the district website, and used Blackboard Connect to invite parents and stakeholders to the meeting. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).



Upon final revision, the district parental involvement plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state.

Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time by submitting written comments to their child's school or by participation in the district parent survey. All feedback received was considered when the plan was revised for this school year.

The district parental involvement policy is sent home with all students, posted on district and school websites, and is made available in the school office or parent resource centers.

Strengthening Our School

The district parent engagement coordinator will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the parent engagement coordinator will hold regular meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school parent engagement representatives to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, in the spring the district will work with schools to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parental involvement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

Reservation of Funds

WCSD will reserve one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY17 to carry out the parent engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Furthermore, WCSD will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parent engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parent involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host parent evaluation and input meeting (forum) in May for parents to participate in reviewing and revising the schoolwide school improvement plan and school and district parent involvement plans. Parents will also give input on the parent involvement budget and the parent involvement programs and activities. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and to consider changes to the parental involvement budget.

Opportunities for Parent/Family Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents are invited to attend various meeting opportunities to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach academic achievement goals established for the school year.



District

Parent Involvement Meeting

The district holds an annual parent and stakeholder meeting to review and revise the district parent engagement plan and to gather input on the CLIP for the upcoming year. Spring survey data is also shared during the meeting. All parents and stakeholders are invited, and the meeting is announced in a variety of forms. Electronic billboard, automated phone calls, newspaper articles, and flyers sent to local churches and the Waycross/Ware County Chamber of Commerce are some examples.

Annual Evaluation

Meetings

Each Title I school will host an annual meeting in May for parents and stakeholders to participate in reviewing the schoolwide school improvement plan, revising school and district parent involvement plans, providing input on the parent involvement budget, and evaluating the parent involvement programs and activities. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and to consider changes to the parental involvement budget.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parental involvement programs may also be provided through the annual parent survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parental involvement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit Federal Programs at www.ware.k12.ga.us to review meeting documents, notes, and survey data. Email comments and suggestions to Dean Moody at dmoody@ware.k12.ga.us or Sonya Mixon at smixon@ware.k12.ga.us.

Building School and Parent Capacity

WCSD 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 schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

WCSD will support the schools in providing assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. Schools will provide information about state-adopted standards, achievement standards, and required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for meetings will be shared in a variety of ways including, but not limited to, the school website, local newspaper, Blackboard Connect phone calls, and flyers.

WCSD will support schools in providing resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home. Parents will also have opportunities to learn about Georgia Milestone Assessment System online testing, state curriculum, and other school programs. Dates and times for these workshops and meetings will be determined and announced by individual schools.

WCSD will work with Daffodil, Head Start, and other state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on parent engagement activities.



To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each school will maintain a list of parents who have requested documents in another language. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in the requested language. Interpreters are provided by request at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practical. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

WCSD will conduct trainings on strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. Information will be redelivered to the faculty and staff at each school. The district parent engagement coordinator will meet with school staff to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. WCSD will host training on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families. This training will be redelivered at the schools.

WCSD has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each school. Conducted by the superintendent, meetings are held monthly.

Parent Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the WCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent engagement plan and the programs and activities to improve the academic quality of the schools through an annual district parent survey and the school evaluation and input meetings.

Beginning in March or April, each school will send home a survey for parents to provide feedback regarding the activities and programs provided during the school year. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school Web sites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, many schools will also use the spring evaluation and input meeting to facilitate discussions on designing strategies.

The Ware County School District will use the findings from the school spring meetings and system survey results to design strategies to improve effective parental involvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parental involvement plans.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent involvement/family engagement requirements established by Section 1118 (e) of the ESEA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Student Achievement to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in the parents' preferred language.

Adoption

This districtwide plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of students participating in Title I Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, stakeholders, school and district personnel at the annual District Stakeholder Meeting.

This plan was adopted by the Ware County School District on June 2, 2016, and will be in effect for the 2016 – 2017 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents on or before November 1, 2016.