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# Long County School District Parental Involvement Plan

## What is Parental Involvement?

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an essential role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be energetically involved in their child's education.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Long County School District (LCSD) 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 LCSD'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, stay in school longer

and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for essential parental involvement at every level of the program, such as in the development and application of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement requirements. 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 LCSD 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

During the annual District Input meeting in May, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parental involvement policy for the school year. The district posted an announcement on the school district Web site, each schools individual website, Facebook ,and posted flyers in the community. Parents were also invited by a phone call sent by the district. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and our Parent/School Compacts.

Additionally,

LCSD collaborated with all program directors to review the district parental involvement policy before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parental involvement 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 Web site or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parental involvement policy is posted on district and school Web sites, distributed in our Title I packet sent home with students, and in Title I meeting throughout the school year the LCSD also has made Parental Involvement Policy available in the districts' parent resource center and in each schools' main office.

## Strengthening Our School

This year, the district parent involvement coordinator (PIC) 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 and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the PIC will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and staff PICs to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will hold meetings to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parental involvement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

## Reservation of Funds

The LCSD will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Furthermore, the LCSD will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Long County School District will host an annual Title I input Meeting in May for parents to provide suggestions how these parental involvement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards 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 parental involvement budget.





## Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

### **Federal Programs Planning meeting** ~ May 11, 2017

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Long County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parental involvement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2016-17 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website, School Info APP , local newspaper and social media.

### **Federal Programs Input Meeting** ~ June 1, 2017

During this meeting, we encourage parents to participate in roundtable discussions to review the school wide plan, the school's parental involvement policies as well as provide input on the parental involvement budget, school parent compacts, FLP ,and parental involvement programs. A letter will be sent home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting Information will also be made available on the school Websites.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parental involvement programs may also be provided through the annual district 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 [www.longcountyps.com](http://www.longcountyps.com) to review the documents leave your input.





# Building School and Parent Capacity

The LCSD 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 Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

The LCSD will work Title I schools to provide 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. The LCSD will provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes will be posted on the district Web site, letters sent home, and automated call system.

The LCSD will also provide a page on the district Web site that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources, the LCSD technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The LCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's parental involvement programs with the Head Start program 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. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten and Pre-K Ready days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for Pre-K and kindergarten. The LCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

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 Title I school will send home a districtwide calendar of events with information for parents at the beginning of the year. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district Website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school Websites, Facebook, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

The LCSD will conduct annual trainings during the school year for principals and the PIC to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district parent involvement coordinator will also provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. The ACSD will host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

The LCSD is working to establish a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council.



