

# Long County School District

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2017–2018  
Revised June 12, 2017  
468 South McDonald St.  
Ludowici, GA 31316  
longcountyps.com

### What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including 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 and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA.

### About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Long County School District has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement 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 substantive family engagement 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 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the LCSD will work as a Title I school district to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

## Jointly Developed

During the annual State of the District meeting in May, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2017-2018 school year. The district notified all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website, and each individual school's website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP).

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 was posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in each school's front office.

## Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to all Long County Schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the FEC will hold meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will meet in March for principals and the FEC to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement 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 in FY18 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the LCSD 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 May for parents to provide suggestions how these family engagement 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 family engagement budget.





## Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members 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.

### **State of the District Meeting ~ May 10, 2018**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Achieve County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be posted to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website, and all individual school websites.

### **School Improvement Forums ~ May 1-3, 2018**

During this week, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will notify and post informing them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites, and the district website.

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

**Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit [longcountyps.com](http://longcountyps.com) to review the meeting documents or call Dana Green the Family Engagement Coordinator 912-545-7841.**

## **Building Capacity**

The LCSD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through districtwide activities and programs such as Parent Advisory Council, School Council, PTO (Smiley Elementary), and MOWR program.

***Of Parents*** - The LCSD will work as a district and through its 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 challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessments (ACCESS, GAA). The dates and locations for these classes and Council meetings will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I school's websites.

The LCSD will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and other activities, 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 (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), 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 has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners.

The LCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, Smiley Elementary will host a Head Start Tour and PreK Tour so students may tour the school and will also host a Kindergarten Curriculum Day to help parents prepare their children for kindergarten. The LCSD will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

***Of School Staff*** - The LCSD will conduct monthly meetings during the school year for principals and the school family engagement coordinator to learn and discuss strategies to increase family 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 LCSD will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, council meetings, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and council meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, social media, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

# Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the LCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and post a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school

websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions involving the needs of parents and their children receiving Title I services. In addition, design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The LCSD will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services 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 a language parents can understand.

## Mark Your Calendars

### *For Parents*

#### Annual Parent Survey

April 9-23, 2018

#### School Improvement Forum

May 1-3, 2018 –  
Each School

#### State of the District

May 10, 2018 –  
Annex Building

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Long County School District on June 12, 2017 and will be in effect for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2017.

