

JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Jefferson, Georgia 30549
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2015-2016 Title I Program Parent Involvement Plan

Revised-July 31, 2015

PURPOSE:

1. To support and secure an effective partnership among parents, legal guardians, schools, and the community.
2. Provide all students in the Jackson County School system with a learning environment that encourages high student academic performance.
3. Comply with the Title I, Part A requirement regarding the establishment of a parental involvement policy according to Section 118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. (ESEA). (Section 118(a) (2) ESEA.)

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Jackson County School District Title I Parent Plan agrees to the following statutory requirements:

The Jackson County Schools will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with section 1118, the Jackson County Schools will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

- The Jackson County Schools will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Jackson County District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If Jackson County Schools plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The Jackson County Schools will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The Jackson County Schools will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that it's Title I schools 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—

- (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 at school;*
- (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 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. Jackson County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of the districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Share the current year policy and plan and obtain parent input through discussion or use of feedback forms regarding revisions to the policy and plan and use of parent involvement funds in the following places:
 - District parent events
 - Websites –both district and school
 - Use multimedia distributions- school newsletters, district flyers, newspaper and websites.
 - Parent notification to participate in the revision of the Comprehensive Local Education Planning (CLIP) and Title I Parent Meetings at the district and local school level.
 - Review and provide feedback on the CLIP, the Title I, Parent Surveys, Workshop Evaluation Response Forms and other data available.
2. The Jackson County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - All Title I parents will receive invitations to participate in planning sessions and to provide input on the Title I School-Wide Plan, Title I Targeted Assistance Plans, and the Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP).
 - Title I program evaluations will be conducted throughout the school year with opportunities for parental input on Title I surveys, at local schools' Annual Meetings, after school program or workshop activities and during the Title I District Planning sessions.
 - Plans will be posted on the District and school websites with copies made available at the District Office, and in Title I schools.
 - The review process will include how funds were allocated for the parental involvement activity, how effective the policy was in increasing parent participation and the identification of barriers for parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English and literacy proficiency, and of any racial or ethnic minority.
3. Jackson County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - On-going system-wide training, communication, and discussions with schools regarding effective development of school parent plan and compact.
 - Completion of Title I Program Quarterly Reviews to provide guidance and action plans, as appropriate.
 - Easy and convenient access to District Title I personnel.
 - Provide support and assistance in building effective parent capacity in the schools.
 - Review individual school plans and minutes from parent meetings in order to maintain compliance with federal regulations and state guidance and to show they were developed jointly with parent input.
 - Assistance in development and the annual revision of school-level parent plan and home/school compacts.
4. Jackson County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Even Start, Babies Can't Wait, and State-operated preschool programs by:
 - Inviting parents of preschool age children to participate in district parent workshops and training events.
 - Inviting parents of children enrolled in preschool programs to visit the elementary schools each Spring.
 - Providing preschool programs with information about upcoming parent workshops to be included in the parent newsletters.
 - Provide parent resources, as appropriate, to nurture learning, promote family literacy, and support parents as equal partners in education.

5. The Jackson County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

Parents are surveyed annually to determine whether parent engagement needs are being met effectively and appropriately through the implementation of the parent engagement programs. Parents are given opportunities to complete surveys via paper copy or electronically (Survey Monkey). The findings of this survey will be used to develop strategies for school improvement and/or to revise the LEA and school-level policies. These findings are also used in planning future parent workshops and meetings. Areas evaluated include academics and school leadership, parent involvement, Title I, school environment, and the school Parent Engagement Program.

6. The Jackson County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

- A. The Jackson County Schools 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 --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

- B. Jackson County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and trainings 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:

Title I schools will offer computer access to parents to aid in their knowledge and use of technology. Teacher facilitated workshops will provide tips and ideas to parents on helping their children with content subject areas. Parents participate in events which will focus on grade level academic expectations, and will offer resources and guidance on how parents can work with their child to achieve academic success. School personnel are available to help with parents on an individual basis to help any specific needs or interests.

- C. Jackson County Schools 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:

Surveys will serve to identify specific areas that may need attention in certain schools. All staff will be presented with strategies associated with effective parent – teacher conference. Each school, with input from parents, will develop a Parent Involvement Plan that outlines strategies that ensures a partnership for the purpose of student success. Each school, with input from parents, will develop a Compact which outlines how the school and parents will work together, as equal partners, toward student academic success.

- D. Jackson County Schools 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:

All school system personnel will work with early education programs to coordinate parent involvement efforts to have a greater impact on the community. Yearly parent orientations are held with the Head Start and other local Pre-Ks to help make the transition to kindergarten. Each Spring all elementary schools have a kindergarten round-up where students and parents visit the school and receive information about the school and receive information about the school programs and curriculum.

- E. Jackson County Schools 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.

Jackson County Schools will translate written communication in a language parents can understand, when possible and feasible. Schools can use contracted services of an interpreter and/or translator when needed, if allocated and applicable. All schools may use the Language Line for all communication with parents.

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

The school principal and/or principal designative will serve as the school-based contact for concerns, comments, and requests from parent and community members. The principal will respond to these concerns, comments, and requests as needed and appropriate. If required, they will involve other school or district level personnel.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENT

NOTE: The Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement 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;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

PART IV.

ADOPTION

This Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by invitations to participate in policy development, meeting agendas, sign-in forms, and surveys.

This policy was adopted by Jackson County Schools on July 31, 2015 and will be in effect for the period of school year 2015-2016. The school district will make available this policy at schools and/or at the Jackson County Board of Education. Feel free to contact Teresa Strickland at tstrickland@jackson.k12.ga.us or 706-367-5151 with questions or any input.

