

**Webster County
Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy**



2021-2022

**School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Webster County School District
2021-22
Revised March 22, 2021**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Webster County School District** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The **Webster County School District** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.

- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

The Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) input meeting was done differently due to Covid, parents, family members, teachers and other stakeholders were invited to participate in a survey and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy as well as the CLIP for the 2021-2022 school year. The district sent home a survey to all parents, family members, teachers and other stakeholders to give input. The district went over all surveys and used information given to complete the CLIP and Family engagement policy.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Webster County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district's school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend the meeting opportunities, to request additional support, and to share their ideas and suggestions in order to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals and improve our family engagement programs. These meetings are posted in the Newspaper, on the School website, notices are sent home with students, and the events are on the parent involvement calendar and sent home at the beginning of the school year. ***School Improvement Input Meeting – May 18, 2021 @ 10:00 am (Virtual Meeting)***

The Virtual School Improvement virtual meeting went live as planned. There was no one in attendance. The school looked back at the Input surveys that were sent home in February and came up with a consensus of the data: More after school activities, more family activities, Parent/student homework guides and help, and the IXL, Reading Eggs, and Math Seeds online programs are well liked by students and parents. Improvement needed in Math and Literacy.

Building Parent Capacity

The Webster County School will educate parents in understanding the school goals, state academic standards, school curriculum, and standardized assessments such as Georgia Milestones tests.

- Schools will provide workshops on various topics to assist parents with the educational needs of their children, as well as provide information regarding the Title I program. The dates and locations for these classes will be shared through school newsletters, websites, marquees, and automated messages.
- Schools will provide educational literature for families to learn more about transitioning from pre-k to kindergarten, elementary to middle school, middle to high school and high school to other postsecondary opportunities and careers.
- A parent resource room/area is located in the school Media Center. The resource room contains resources and materials, including parent guides, and additional resources to help parents work with their children at home.

Building School Capacity

- The Webster County School will make every effort to ensure that information related to district, school, and parent meetings and activities are available to all parents. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in the parent's native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings when necessary.
- The Webster County School will conduct multiple trainings for the school staff to learn and discuss strategies that will increase parent and family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build strong ties with parents.

- The Webster County School will work to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student’s learning and progress, as well as provide information regarding the Title I program.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Webster County School District will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school’s Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents’ requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Annual Title I Meeting – October 13, 2021

Webster County Schools will host a meeting October 13, 2021 for parents to be informed of the school-wide plans, the schools’ parent and family engagement policies, and Title programs. Parents will be notified by announcement on the WCS website, notices sent home with students, and a newspaper article about the date and time of the Title I Meeting. Parent input may be provided through the annual Title I Parent Survey sent out each spring. The survey will contain questions related to family engagement activities with a section for parents to provide their feedback/comments. A Parent Involvement Calendar is sent home the first week of school, when the activities arise they are posted on the website and notices sent home with students. The annual Title I Meeting will be held in October and parents will be informed of the Title I funds received. The website can be visited at www.websterbobcats.org to review the documents. Input is accepted at any time by contacting the Parent Involvement Coordinator, Mrs. Rutchie Pollock at rpollcock@webster.k12.ga.us or the Title I Director, Mrs. Ann Swain at aswain@webster.k12.ga.us.

COMMUNICATIONS

Webster County School District will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- 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:

Webster County School District will send the parent and Family Engagement Policy home the first week of school. Title I staff will work to provide assistance to parents in understanding the

policy, as well as information regarding the Title I program. Schools will provide parents opportunities to attend meetings and activities throughout the school year concerning Title I programs, Parent engagement, state academic standards, state academic assessments, and various academic content workshops that aim at providing parents with tools to help their children by reinforcing learning at home. Dates and times for these activities will be shared by sending home flyers/newsletters, as well as posting this information on the website and through various other venues.

Schools will provide parents with opportunities to attend meetings and activities throughout the school year concerning Parent and Family Engagement will be addressed through these meetings.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Webster County School District will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

The School - Parent Compact will be addressed through:

- Annual Meetings
- Fall, Winter and Spring Open Houses
- Correspondence from principal/superintendent
- School Council meetings

The School Compact is located on the School website. www.websterbobcats.org

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Webster County School District** will take the following actions to involve the parents 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 by:

Webster County School District does not receive over \$500,000 in Title I funds therefore; no reservation of funds is required. Stakeholders are notified of this exemption from requirement through this policy and our Annual CLIP Review/Revision Meeting in July and our fall Annual Title I Meeting.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Webster County School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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:

Webster County Schools will collaborate with the Health Department, Family Connections, Sheriff's Department, Emergency Medical Services/ Fire and Rescue, Webster County 4-H, South Georgia Technical College, USDA Rural Development, Citizen's Bank, Georgia Southwestern State University and other local businesses in Webster County and the surrounding community to support school readiness, to support the instructional program and the parent and family engagement program.

Webster County School District will collaborate with parents of kindergarten students, eighth grade students and seniors through meetings and information sent home via flyers and newsletters to help students transition to their next level of education. The Family Engagement Coordinator, Title I Director and Graduation Coach will work to ensure that students have positive and supported transitions.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Webster County School District will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging State's academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

Webster County School's Title I staff will work to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to student learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. Schools will provide parents opportunities to attend meetings and activities throughout the school year concerning Title I programs, Parent Involvement, state academic standards, state academic assessments, and various academic content workshops that aim at providing parents with tools to help their children by reinforcing learning at home. Dates and times for these activities will be shared by sending home flyers/newsletters, as well as posting this information on the website and through various other venues.

Parent and Family Engagement will be addressed through:

- Annual Meeting
- Fall, Winter and Spring Open Houses

- Monthly newsletter/calendar
- Correspondence from principal/superintendent
- Parent programs
- School Council meetings
- Volunteer opportunities
- Parent Resource room
- PowerSchool Internet Access
- Monthly newspaper articles by each teacher

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Webster County School District will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

Webster County School District will build the school and parent capacity for strong family engagement. This will help to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, family members, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement through the district-wide activities and programs mentioned in this section. The School Staff will continuously make contact with parents through meetings, phone conferences, home visits, and email.

A district School Council, which meets throughout the school year, has been established. It is comprised of parents, teachers, and the principal/superintendent to provide input on matters related to school improvement and family engagement in order to build both school and parent capacity.

Webster County School District will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

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 school and district staff members 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

DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

POLICY COMPONENTS

- To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

The Webster County School District will offer a variety of methods including a variety of times for meetings, open houses, planned parent involvement activities, phone conferences, email, and in home visits to work directly with parents unable to attend meetings.

The Webster County School District has a School council (including local businesses) that meets monthly to discuss school related issues. The input from these meetings goes into the Parent engagement and involvement planning. The CTAE Advisory committee includes business partners which give input for the school's plans. The Family Connections and local churches collaborate with the school to help meet the needs of the students. The Family Connections has quarterly meetings and we use input from these meetings in planning family engagement activities.