



## **School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

*Atkinson County High School*

*School Year 2024-2025*

*Revision Date: 05/30/24*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Atkinson County High School 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 Atkinson County High School 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

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**Atkinson County High School** 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, including how funds of parental improvement may be used.

- All parents are invited to an Annual Title 1 Input Meeting of the ACHS Title 1 policy. This meeting will be held in the spring for the continued development of the School Title 1 policy. Title 1 information will be provided to all parents/families to review and provide input to improve the parent and family engagement policy. A sign-in sheet, agenda, and minutes will be kept. Additionally, surveys will be posted on the school website and social media for parents to provide feedback on the planning and improvement of the parent and family engagement program.

## **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Atkinson County High School** 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. The following methods may be used:

- Utilize the school webpage to announce meeting dates, times, and locations.
- Utilize the school parent portal to announce meeting dates, times, and locations.
- Utilize the ACHS Facebook page to advertise meeting dates, times, and locations.
- Utilize the school marquee to advertise meeting dates, times, and locations.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Atkinson County High School** 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:

The parent and family engagement policy will be distributed in multiple ways and in a language that parents can understand, which may include the following:

- posted on the school webpage
- posted on school-related social media
- included in the student handbook
- paper copy sent home with all students

Atkinson County High School will have multiple parent involvement meetings including academic meetings and school activities. These parent meetings will be held throughout the school year, at multiple times during the day, and translators will be available to provide the information in a language the parents can understand. Parent meetings may include the following:

- Open House
- Annual Title I Meeting
- Academic Parent Nights
- Parent-Teacher Conference
- Parent Workshops

### **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

Atkinson County High School 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 how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- The School-Parent compact is presented at parent meetings and input from parents is requested.
- Parent surveys are used for input in revising the compact. Surveys are posted on the school webpage and social media. In addition, computers/Chromebooks are available at school for parents to complete surveys during parent meetings.

### **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

If applicable, Atkinson County High School 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:

- The Annual Input meeting will be held in the spring to solicit information from parents/families how to spend the 1% of Title 1 set aside funds. All parents will be invited to this meeting. A sign-in sheet, agenda, and minutes will be kept. Additionally, surveys will be posted on the school website and social media for parents to provide input.

### **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

Atkinson County High School 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:

- The Atkinson County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under other programs: Head Start, Pre-K, Migrant Program, and ESOL program that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children. Invitations to parent meetings shall be provided in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand. Notice of meetings are placed in local newspapers, social media, on school and district websites, and on outdoor signs at each school. Students and parents in Head Start and Pre-K are allowed to visit the elementary schools in which their children will be enrolling. Migrant parents are given information on Pre-K enrollment procedures and dates at the spring migrant PAC meeting. The Atkinson Migrant Program coordinates services and provides the School Readiness Program for migrant three and four-year-old children who do not attend Pre-K programs. Family Connections works closely with the school counselor and school social worker providing services to families throughout the year. Atkinson County Health Department and Unison Behavioral Health partner with schools to provide services to families and students. Other services are provided through collaboration with South Georgia State College, Wiregrass Technical College, and Satilla Regional Library which are community partners.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

Atkinson County High School 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
- Assisting parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - notify parents of the State's academic achievement standards;
  - notify parents concerning the school performance rating based on the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) to acquire parental input relating to the School Improvement Plan;
  - reporting students' progress to parents;
  - provide requirements of Title I Part 1;
  - conduct Open House, Annual Title 1 Meetings, parent meetings, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Honors Day, and other family activities or events;
  - utilize parent questionnaires/surveys to acquire parent input for future program development;
  - analysis of assessment and survey data;
  - School-Parent Compact including student, parent, and school representative signatures;

- offer opportunities for parenting skills and literacy training;
- provide parents with accessibility to home activities to reinforce learning;
- parent information letters will be written in a language conducive to their understanding to the extent possible;
- provide parents with information concerning the professional qualification of their child's teacher at the beginning of each school year if requested by the parents; offer an after-school tutoring program and credit recovery for students.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

**Atkinson County High School** will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and 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:

- courses offered through RESA;
- onsite training
- online resources
- district support
- conferences
- Professional Learning Communities (PLC's)

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

- Offering parent meetings more than once and at different times of the day to increase parent and family engagement at ACHS.