

Atkinson County School District

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2021-2022
Revised June 29, 2021
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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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESEA).

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Atkinson County School District (ACSD) has developed this parent and family engagement plan 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 ACSD'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 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. The ACSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed

During the Annual District Stakeholder Feedback Meeting in April, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district sent a message through Infinite Campus Messenger to all parents informing them about this meeting. An announcement was made on the district/school calendars and posted on our school social media sites. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Parents who could not attend the meeting were encouraged to submit comments and feedback regarding the Parent & Family Engagement Plan, Strategic Priorities, and/or Budget at any time via the online input form located on the district/school website or via email.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP, which was submitted to the state. All feedback received was considered for revisions on this plan.

The district Parent and Family Engagement Plan was posted on the district website, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.

Strengthening Our School

The Title I Director along with the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator (PFEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I 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 district Title I Director and the family engagement coordinator (FEC) to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district Title I Director will hold meetings and trainings periodically with its Title I schools' principals and school family engagement coordinator to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the PFEC works with principals in the spring to review parent and family engagement requirements, plan opportunities for engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year, and begin planning for the upcoming year.

Reservation of Funds

The ACSD will reserve at least one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY22 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the ACSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved for Title I Schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will develop 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 hosted an annual Parent Feedback/Input Meeting in April for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Feedback forms 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. If you have any suggestions, please contact the Parent-Family Engagement Coordinator.





Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community stakeholders 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.

District Stakeholder Feedback Meeting~ April 26, 2022

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Atkinson County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2021-2022 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent out via Infinite Campus Messenger to parents, posted on our district /school calendars, and on our school social media pages.

Parent Feedback Meetings ~ September 28th & September 29, 2021 & April 2022

Each Title I school will host a meeting for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the school-wide plan, the school's parent and family engagement plans as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will post notices on their social media pages and district webpage, automated calls to parents, and send home flyers notifying them about the date and time of the meetings. The notices will also be posted in our local newspaper.

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 www.atkinson.k12.ga.us to review the meeting documents and to leave your input or email Mandy Giddens at mgiddens@atkinson.k12.ga.us for questions or more information.

Building Capacity

The ACSD will build school and parent capacity for strong family engagement. This capacity will ensure effective engagement of parents and family members in supporting partnerships among Title I schools, parents, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement. To build this capacity, the ACSD will teach at-home learning activities and strategies for our families to use with their students.

Of Parents - The ACSD 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 ACSD will provide a "GA Milestones Informational" 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 assessment. The dates and locations for these meeting will be posted on the district/school calendars, Infinite Campus Messenger and social media.

The ACSD will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials 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 harms of copyright piracy), the PFEC will host workshops and trainings for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

All Title I schools in the ACSD have school councils comprised of parent representatives, teachers, and community and business leaders to provide advice and input on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.

The ACSD 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, the elementary school will host a Kindergarten Transition Meeting so parents may tour the school and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten.

Of School Staff - The ACSD will conduct periodic trainings during the school year for principals 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 ACSD 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, 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' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and Title I meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, Infinite Campus Messenger, and District/School Calendars

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the ACSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and at the Parent Feedback/Input Meetings.

Each Title I school will send home a survey and email 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 Parent Feedback Meeting to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The ACSD will use the findings from the Parent Feedback/Input Meetings 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 plans.

Accessibility

In alignment with the parent engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Director of Federal Programs will collaborate with other district departments 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

Parent Feedback Meetings

September 28, 2021

September 29, 2021

Parent & Family Engagement Survey

1/12/22 – 2/12/22

District Stakeholder's Feedback Meeting

Spring 2022 – County Board Office

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan 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 District Family Engagement & Stakeholders Input Meeting.

This plan was adopted by the Atkinson County School District on June 29, 2021, and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2022

