

# Willacoochee Elementary School

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success



**2024–2025 School Year**

**Willacoochee Elementary School**  
Mrs. Michelle Gurley, Principal  
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(912) 534-5302

### **What is Title I?**

Willacoochee Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

# School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

### **What is it?**

This is a plan that describes how Willacoochee Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Willacoochee Elementary values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Willacoochee Elementary will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

### **How is it revised?**

Willacoochee Elementary School invited all parents to attend our annual Title I meeting to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy and the school-parent compact. Willacoochee Elementary School uses stakeholder, parent, and student input for suggestions, recommendations, and advisement on all matters related to parent and family engagement. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year.

### **Who is it for?**

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Willacoochee Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), parents with disabilities, and those of migratory children. Migrant staff is utilized to the extent possible to communicate information related to school and parent programs/activities in the language used in homes of participating children.

### **Where is it available?**

At the beginning of the year, the plan is distributed at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting. Paper copies are sent home with students, displayed in the Parent Resource Center, Media Center, and Office. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan from these various locations. An electronic copy is also located on the school website at [Link](#).



### ***2024–2025 District Goals***

- By the end of 2024-2025, all schools will increase the percentage of students performing in levels 3 and 4 (Proficient - Level 3 and Distinguished - Level 4) of the GMAS scores in every content area by 2% points.
- To increase the GMAS scores of all subgroups by 2 percentage points

### ***2024–2025 School Goals***

- **READING:** By the end of FY25 school year, we will improve instructional practices that will result in a 3% overall increase in each grade level's percentile rank on STAR Reading.
- **READING:** By the end of FY25 school year, 85% of students will increase their Lexile levels by 100 points or more on the STAR Reading.
- **MATH:** By the end of FY25 school year, we will improve instructional practices that will result in a 3% overall increase in each grade level's percentile rank on STAR Math.

### **School-Parent Compacts**

As part of this plan, Willacoochee Elementary stakeholders including and our families jointly developed a school-parent compact, which is an agreement between parents, teachers, and students. The compact explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the annual revisions meeting in the spring. The school-parent compacts are also shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.

### **Willacoochee Parent Resource Center**

Come visit our Parent Resource Center to check out educational resources; which includes books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Parent Portal information is also available. For more information, visit our school website or contact

Ms. Chrissy Sierra, Parent Engagement Coordinator at 912-534-5302  
Tuesday & Thursday 7:30-8:00 & 2:00-2:30

### **Let's Get Together!**

Willacoochee Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement according to the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Parents, family, and community members are invited to attend all school events.

- 1) Notify parents concerning the school performance rating based on the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI) in order to acquire parental input relating to the school improvement plan.
- 2) Notify parents when the school is identified as a Reward, Focus, Priority or Alert School.
- 3) Reporting students' progress to their parents.
- 4) Provide information concerning the Title I Program and other programs offered at the school: The Gifted Program, Early Intervention Program (EIP), Special Education, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Migrant Education.
- 5) Conduct Open House, Annual Title 1 Meeting, Grade Expectations parent meeting, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Honors Day, Goodies with Grandparents, and other family activities or events.
- 6) Utilize parent questionnaires/surveys to acquire parent input for future program development.
- 7) Analysis of assessment data.
- 8) A School-Parent compact including student, parent and school representative signatures. 9) Offer opportunities for parenting skills and literacy training.
- 10) Provide parents with accessibility to home activities to reinforce learning.
- 11) Parent information letters will be written in a language, which is conducive to their understanding to the extent possible. Letters and notices will include a Spanish version when possible.
- 12) 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.
- 13) Provide parents with timely notice if their child is to be taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified for four or more consecutive weeks.
- 14) Offer an after-school tutoring program for at-risk students.

## Parent and Family Engagement

Willacoochee Elementary believes that 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:

- Parents play an integral role by monitoring their child's progress and working with educators to improve their child's performance.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

## Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Willacoochee Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community



## Willacoochee Elementary is Paw-Some



Willacoochee Elementary will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school. In order to further strengthen and build parent's capacity through school wide initiatives, communications, and resources to reach our school goals, we will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish, posted on the school website, school-based social media, and included in the monthly school newsletter for all families
- ✓ Provide trainings for staff on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement. (Staff will share best practice with their peers.)
- ✓ Partner with early childhood programs and provide resources; such as a parent resource center, that encourages and supports parent participation in the education of their children to prepare them for college, career, and life.
- ✓ Provide assistance to parents in understanding the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through phone messages, social media, and flyers.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, family nights, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Share information in English and Spanish on the school website and flyers for parents to understand.

Willacoochee Elementary is committed to helping our parents and families with flexible scheduling so they may attend the family activities as well as parent meetings listed in this policy. Please contact the school if you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

*Wildcats Exemplify Success”*