Lanier County Schools

Combined District & School Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2026-2027

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In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Lanier 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(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

Family Engagement for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

The policy establishes Lanier County Schools' expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the district will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the district's plan suited to the Georgia Department of Education.

How is it revised?

Lanier County School District invites all families and community members in the spring to revise the district level policy where they receive a copy of the policy for review. Families may receive and review copies of the policy at school level meetings and compact revision meetings. Surveys are completed annually in the spring and results from the surveys are used to revise and improve the district policy.

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 policy. The Title I schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of families with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA.

Where is it available?

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy is made available to all parents and community members. A paper copy of the policy is made available to families who attend stakeholders' meetings, in the school board office, and the lobbies of all Title I schools. A digital copy is available on the district website.

Lanier County Board of Education

BOARD MEMBERS

Mr. Randy Sirmans, Chair
Mr. Erlish Locklear, District 1
Mr. Jay Jay Strickland, District 2
Mr. Phillip Connell, District 3
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Mr. Gene Culpepper, Superintendent

District Goals

The mission of Lanier County Schools is to challenge students to become productive citizens.

STRATEGIC PLAN – Fall 2022-2028

Goal 1: *Student Achievement with Equity and Access*

- *Increase student mastery of priority standards*
- *Increase performance growth for all students*
- *Improve engagement and motivation for all students*
- *Improve high quality instructional strategies for all students*

Goal 2: *Safe and Supportive Environment*

- Provide safe environments for all students and staff
- Provide social-emotional supports/resources for all students and staff
- Improve surveillance equipment

Goal 3: *Personal Growth, Learning and Retention*

- *Develop and implement an employee recruiting plan focused on attracting high performing staff*
- *Provide meaningful/relevant professional learning opportunities (and support) for all staff*
- *Develop/sustain an effective retention plan*

Goal 4: *Parent & Family Engagement*

- *Collaborate with family and community to foster meaningful engagement*

LANIER COUNTY SCHOOLS
Combined District & School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Lanier County School District believes that successful schooling is a shared responsibility requiring commitment and collaboration among parents, faculty, and staff. The Lanier County Board of Education affirms and assures the rights of parents, teachers, principals, administrators, support staff, community and businesses to participate in planning, designing, and implementation of activities funded by the Title I program.

GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Lanier County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements as outlined by Section 1116.

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, 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 LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not

• *Further develop and maintain varied methods of effective communication for all stakeholders* • *Develop/sustain functional and meaningful business and higher education partnerships* Goal 5: *Efficient and Effective Operational Processes* • *Develop and implement efficient and effective operational processes* • *Refine, sustain, & maintain financial stewardship*	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 school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

  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

Lanier County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Invite families to participate in the planning and input meetings on School Improvement Plan (SIP); Title I Schoolwide Plan (SWP); Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Parent-Budget, and Title I Budget.
- Post the policy on the District and school websites with copies made available at the District office and in Title I Schools.
- Conduct Title I Program Evaluations throughout the school year with opportunities for parental input on Title I surveys, at local schools Annual Meetings, workshop activities, and during District Parent Advisory Meetings.
- Provide information about the Title I program.

- Ensure that notices/advertisements are made in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents/families can understand.
- Provide opportunities during school meetings for families to submit comments and feedback to the district if the Title I Schoolwide Plan is not satisfactory to parents.

COMMUNICATION

Lanier County Schools will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone and text messages, emails, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The district and school will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events in order for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as ways parents can monitor their child's progress.

Family Engagement Standards Lanier County Schools have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the district's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These Standards are: ***Welcoming All Families*** ***Communicating Effectively*** ***Supporting Student Success*** ***Speaking Up for Every Child*** ***Sharing Power*** ***Collaborating with Community*** ***Family Engagement Meetings***	**TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE** The Lanier County School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The Federal Program Director will provide technical assistance to school leadership and Title I staff as listed below: • Implements on-going system wide training, communications, and discussions with schools regarding effective development of school-parent compacts. • Hold training for teachers and leaders to build capacity to plan and implement effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student achievement and school performance. • Encourages parents and teachers to build partnership between home and school using a parent and family engagement policy and school-parent compact. • Conduct annual revisions of school level school-parent compacts. • Monthly technical assistance to all Title I schools to include opportunities for parents to be informed by newsletters, website messages, workshops, school meetings, parent/teacher conferences, parent resource center, and direct mail correspondence, if applicable. • Offer programs that build ties between parents and the schools (Professional Development). • Collaborates and integrates, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent and family engagement

The Lanier County School District invites families to join the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators for meetings to share ideas and ways to involve other parents to build partnerships with school, families, and community. District meetings are held throughout the school year, but families can also submit their ideas and suggestions at district/school activities and meetings as well through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to know more about meeting opportunities or to request a meeting, please contact The Federal Program Director, Kelly Newsome at: kelly.newsome@lanier.k12.ga.us or 229-482-3966	programs with other programs to include Early Intervention Program (EIP), counselors, Pre-K Program, Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) institutions, Head Start, Homeless, Foster Care Children, Drug Free Schools, Adult Education, Private Schools, and/or Family Connection to integrate parent and family engagement strategies and programs. • Ensures that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to families of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. • Ensures that reports of student progress needs/successes are specific and timely for pare • Provides such other reasonable support for parents and family engagement activities upon families' request.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Lanier County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with 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 parent and family engagement policy to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policy.

A district-wide Title I advisory meeting will occur annually with the aim of evaluating the content and effectiveness of the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy in improving student achievement. The school district will revise its Parent and Family Engagement Policy based upon the annual review. The evaluation process will include:

- Conducting an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Family Engagement Policy, with assistance of its schools and parents.
- The Federal Program Director and the school's Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators will conduct an annual evaluation through focus groups to determine whether the content of this family engagement policy has been effective.

- Coordinators will share annual evaluation findings at spring stakeholders and parent input meetings.

- Each school conducts needs assessment and maintains and submits documentation of family engagement activities and parent/family contacts to the Federal Program Director.

- Family engagement program evaluations occur at the conclusions of workshops, meetings, and other parent events.

- Families' and community members' participation in the annual survey is advertised and completed through the district and school websites, handouts, and newsletters.

- The findings of the needs assessment, parent contact logs, evaluation of parenting activities, and survey will be used for improving schools and the Title I program. The system's family engagement policy will be revised and strategies will be designed to reflect suggestions and recommendations of families, teachers, and administrators when feasible.

- If families are still not satisfied with the policy, their comments will be submitted with the policy to the Georgia State Department of Education for review.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Lanier County School District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decision about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- School Advisory Council will be composed of parents/families with children who attend Title I schools and receive Title I services to talk in an effort to collaborate on how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds will be spent.
- The district will annually review the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Federal Program Director will complete a checklist to ensure that all required components are addressed.
- The Federal Program Director/Coordinators will annually present the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents during a district level meeting.
- Families will complete the Annual Parent Survey and Title I Program evaluation. The results will be reviewed by families and staff.
- Family notifications to participate in the revision of the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and Title I Parent Advisory Meetings will be advertised at the district and school level.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Lanier County School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with family engagement to the extent feasible and appropriate with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs:

- The district Title I staff shall provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The district Title I staff and principals shall coordinate family engagement strategies, programs, and activities, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with such programs as Head Start, Early Intervention Program (EIP), Remedial Education Program (REP), and Bright from the Start – Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (BFTS).

- Staff from the Title I program, Bright from the Start – Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Head Start, State run preschool programs will attend workshops and conferences together, if appropriate. All programs will coordinate parenting activities, information and resources to maximize family engagement. As appropriate, parents from each of the programs will be invited to attend joint family engagement activities. The school principals, Resource Coordinators, Head Start Director, Bright from the Start, Kindergarten teachers, and Family Connection Director will collaborate on transition activities from primary, elementary, middle, and high school.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Lanier County School District (LCSD) will build family's capacity for strong engagement to ensure effective involvement and to support a partnership among the schools involved, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities described below:

The school district will, with assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, aid families of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding the following topics, 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 Title 1, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress

This is done during annually scheduled Title 1 Parent Meetings that are held at each school at the beginning of the school year. Title I teachers at each school distribute information and communicate with families of their child's grade level standards. Meetings for the 2026-2027 school year will be held prior to November 1, 2026.

Activities may include:

- Parent workshops concluded with program evaluations
- Curriculum-based events based on school defined academic goals such as: College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), Math/Science, and Curriculum Night events that may highlight state assessments Georgia Milestones and Student Learning Objectives
- School and District Parent Advisory Council
- Transition opportunities
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- District and School Level Title I Parent Meetings and Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) meetings
- Explanation of testing and student results

Families are invited by school newsletter, school and district websites, district and school notification system, and other forms of social media.

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and trainings to help families work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement and foster family engagement by:

- Offering family workshops at each Title I school during different times of the day (morning and evening) to accommodate families' work schedules. Topics for workshops are based on identified needs from surveys, teacher input, and student performance data. Some workshops are in collaboration with the English Language Proficient, students with disabilities, Homeless, Foster Care Children, Migrant, and Pre-K program. Childcare may be provided when feasible.
- The district provides for parents, literature that offer academic support and assistance for their child at home. Resources available to parents are books and videos about parenting, math and reading skill building, and homework assistance.
- LCSD will provide information related to school and family programs, meetings, and other activities to parents/families in a format to the extent practicable, in a language that families can understand.
- LCSD will involve families, as described by law, in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other school staff members to improve the effectiveness of the training.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, student services personnel, principals, and other staff on how to reach out to, communicate, and work with families as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and how to implement and coordinator family programs and build ties between families and schools by:

- Reviewing parent and family engagement evaluations with school personnel and determine what can be done to assist with families' needs
- Promoting cultural understanding to all staff at Title I schools
- Providing as allowable, opportunities for parents to volunteer at their child's school and offering training sessions led by parents
- Develop jointly the School-Parent Compacts
- Training of school staff through workshops and/or online resources to promote working with families as equal partners. Parent and Family Engagement Coordinators will promote and train staff on effective two-way communication with families.
- Collaborating and integrating to the extent feasible and appropriate, parent and family engagement activities with other programs such as Early Intervention Program (EIP), counselors, Pre-K Programs, Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) Institutions, Head Start, Homeless, Foster Care Children, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Limited English Proficient, Private Schools, Adult Education, and Migrant and to integrate parent and family engagement strategies and programs.
- Maintaining regular two-way communication regarding curriculum and testing
- Providing access to parent training materials and parent training opportunities as requested

The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the families 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 and utilize contracted services of translators as needed.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS

As part of this plan, all Title 1 schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students and challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The compacts will be revised annually, distributed to all families, reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.