

Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level



Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan Echols County Schools School Year 2023-2024 Revised: 06/03/2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Echols County Schools 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.

The Echols County School district agrees to implement the following 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 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 definition of parental 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

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED
LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Echols County School district 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 ESSA:

With input from parents, the Echols County School District will jointly develop a District (LEA) Parent Engagement Policy and a Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). All Title I parents will be given multiple opportunities to give input on and review the District (LEA) Parent Engagement Policy and the CLIP. Opportunities for input will be made available at Echols County Parent Involvement Committee (EPIC) Meetings, Echols County High School Parent Connect (ECPC) Meetings, and other school functions. All Title I parents will receive a hard copy of the Parent Engagement Policy. Copies will be sent home with each student. Hard copies of the Parent Engagement Policy and the CLIP will be available to parents and community members at each school and at the Echols County Board of Education. Electronic copies will be available to parents and community members on the District and School websites. The Parent Engagement Policy will be available in English and translated to other language, when practicable

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Echols County School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation

with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

Echols County School District will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other reasonable support necessary to assist participating schools in writing, planning, and implementing effective parent engagement policies and activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. We will provide face to face input during administrative meetings, school visits, and Parent Engagement meetings and workshops. In addition to face to face assistance, we will maintain regular email and telephone documentation of assistance provided.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Echols County School district will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement 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 particular 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Echols County Schools will involve parents as we conduct an annual evaluation of the Parental Engagement Policy in improving the academic quality of the schools. Parents will have opportunity to provide input on parent engagement activities at our EPIC and ECPC meetings. In addition, parents will have an opportunity to complete a survey. We will seek to identify barriers to greater participation by all parents in activities, especially parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or if they are of any racial or ethnic minority background. Once the barriers are identified, we will design strategies to reduced and or eliminate them to ensure for more effective parental engagement policies and programs.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Echols County School district will involve the parents and family members 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 and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Echols County School district does not receive an allocation greater than \$500,000, therefore the district is not required to set aside funds for parent engagement.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Echols County School district** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: *[Insert programs, such as: Head Start or other public preschool programs; transitioning to middle, high, postsecondary schools, or careers; and other programs]* that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Echols County School District will coordinate and integrate Parental Engagement strategies under other programs, such as State-run Pre-school programs. Pre-school classes will be included in school-wide activities to the extent feasible. Pre-school literature may be available in school newsletters.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Echols County School district will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State 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

Workshops, handouts, videos, and conferences will be offered to inform all Title I parents about the Georgia Milestones Assessment, the state's academic content standards, the State's student academic achievement standards, the state and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I. Parents will also be given tips on how to monitor their child's progress and work with their child's teachers to improve academic achievement. In addition, a workshop will be held with parents and seniors to help them apply to college. During Parent Engagement Events/Workshops, parents will receive training materials that will assist them in working with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Echols County School district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff 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 schools by:

Each Title I School with the assistance of parents, when possible, will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other school staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of

contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools. This will include presentations at faculty and or grade level meetings. This will also include electronic or print tips throughout the school year.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Echols County Schools will maximize family engagement and participation in their children's education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times and phone or virtual conferences with parents that are unable to come to the parent engagement events.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by EPIC (Echols Parent Involvement Council) and ECPC (Echols County Parent Connect) meeting agendas and sign in sheets.

This policy was adopted by the Echols County School district on **06/01/2023** and will be in effect for the period of the 2023-2024 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1st, 2023.