

# Taliaferro County School Combined District & School Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024  
Revised: June 13, 2023  
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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 (ESSA).

## About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

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

## Jointly Developed

### What are the Federal and State Requirements?

The policy shall be incorporated into the local educational agency’s plan developed under section 1112, establish the agency’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family involvement, and describe how the agency will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under Section 112, and to development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 111(d) Each school served under this part shall jointly develop with, and distribute to, parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means for carrying out the requirements of subsections (c) through (f)... Such

policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.

*Section 1116(b)(1)*

Each school served under this part shall involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under this part, 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), except that if a school has in place a process for involving parents in the joint planning and design of the school's programs, the school may use that process, if such process includes an adequate representation of parents of participating children. *Section 1116(c)(3)*

**The Taliaferro 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 ESEA:

- *Taliaferro County School will host an Annual Federal Programs meeting at the beginning of the new school year. This meeting will be held as an open session to parents or virtual. It will also be recorded for parents to review later.*
- *At the meeting, parents and stakeholders will be informed about federal programs (operations, budget, requirements, etc.) and their input will be solicited to develop the annual district-wide/school Parent Involvement Plan (PIP), School Improvement Plan (SIP), School Compact, etc.*
- *The Parental Involvement Plan will be posted on the district website and printed copies will be available in the Parent Resource Center upon entering the entrance to the school. A recommendation form will also be made available for parent input.*
- *Surveys will be completed during the school year*
- *Updates will be given, and parental input will be solicited at each of the school's schedule PTO and school board meetings.*
- *Flyers and surveys will be sent home and made available on the district's website offering parents the opportunity to submit their thoughts and recommendations.*
- *TCS will request a volunteer parent representative to serve on the school leadership team.*
- *Taliaferro County School will host an annual Title I input meeting. Parents and community members will be given the opportunity to review and give input/feedback in the School-Parent Compact as well as the Parent and Family Engagement Policy Plan. All feedback collect will be used to develop the policy plan.*
- *The Taliaferro County School District will distribute this policy by posting it on district and school websites, distribute during the annual open house/Back to School Bash and the Annual Title I School Meeting in the fall of the year, placing copies in the parent resource centers and the main office of the school. A copy of the policy plan will also be sent home to parent for review and feedback.*
- *Parents will be notified by flyer, newspaper articles and remind 101. Parents will be sent a link where they may review the documents in a format and language they can understand.*



## **Strengthening Our School**

### **Technical Assistance**

#### What are the Federal and State Requirements?

Provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement 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.

*Section 1116(a)(2) (B)*

The Taliaferro County School District will provide technical assistance and support to Taliaferro County Title I school to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Taliaferro County School will receive notifications and resources from the Parent Engagement Liaison to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the FEC will hold meetings and trainings throughout the year with its Title I school's administrators to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, FEC will convene a meeting throughout the year for administrators and FECs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

- *An annual Open House/Back to School Bash will be hosted, giving parents the opportunity to meet faculty & staff members, sign the School-Parent Compact, view and offer feedback on the School Improvement Plan and the Combined Parent Policy Plan.*
- *Parent surveys will be collected to receive input and feedback concerning parent ideas about the specific areas they would like to participate, such as workshops or training.*
- *Teacher surveys will be collected on classroom, school, and parental supports needs.*
- *The Parent Engagement Liaison serves on the school leadership team.*

## **Annual Title I Meeting**

What are the Requirements?

Each school served under this part shall convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend. This meeting will be held to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved. *Section 1116 (c) (1)*

**The Taliaferro County School District** will convene an annual Title I Parent Meeting at the beginning of the school year at a convenient time to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend.

- *This meeting will be held before November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year.*
- *Parents will be informed of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation as well as parents rights under Title.*
- *This meeting will be held for informational purposes only.*
- *The Parent and Family Engagement Policy Plan and School-Parent Compact along with other information will be distributed.*

## **Communication**

**What are the requirements?**

Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. *Section 1116(b)(1), Section 1116(f), and Section 1112(e)(4)* Each school served under this part shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, virtual and/or recorded for parents who could not attend the initial meeting be able to view at a later time. Taliaferro County School may provide with funds under this part, transportation, childcare, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement. *Section 1116(c)(2)* Each school served under this part shall provide parents of participating children timely information about programs under this part. *Section 1116(c)(4)(A)* If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

*Section 1116(c)(4) (C)*

Taliaferro County School District will ensure that continuous communication between the school and parent will be provided.

- The parent and family engagement policy will be written in an understandable and uniform format, that the extent practicable, and provided in a language the parents can understand.
- Meeting will be offered inhouse if possible, or virtual if the need arises. The meeting will be recorded for parents who cannot attend the meeting. The recording will be posted on the school and district websites.
- Transportation services will be offered as needed.
- Childcare services will be offered as needed with the help of the CTAE Departments.
- Meeting opportunities will be offered to parents to address the education of their child/ren.
- Meeting notices will be distributed by flyers, Remind 101, school website, marque, news articles, and social media.

## **School - Parent Compact**

What are the requirements?

As a component of the parent and family engagement policy developed under subsection (b), each school served under this part shall jointly develop with parents for all children served under this part a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

Section 1116(d)

Taliaferro County School District will annually and jointly revise the school – parent compact to include all necessary components to outline how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement for high school students.

- *Taliaferro County School District will hold an annual parent and stakeholder input meeting to revise the school-parent compact, and combined parent policy plan.*
- *The revised compact will list the responsibilities for parents, the school, and students that will lead to improved student academic achievement.*
- *Responsibilities listed are based on the district/school improvement goals and are designed to help children achieve the challenging state standards.*

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Taliaferro 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 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 involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.



- *Parent surveys will be collected twice during the school year to provide guidance for the upcoming school year. Needs Improvement areas will be identified and TCS will make those areas a vital part of the next school year's plan.*
- *Parents will be encouraged to participate in annual evaluation as well as surveys throughout the school year.*
- *Parents will be given various opportunities to complete and submit their survey (at the end of the prior school year and the beginning of current school year). They will also be provided with opportunities to review the Combined Parent Engagement Policy Plan and provide feedback.*
- *Parents will have multiple ways and opportunities to provide feedback.*
- *Parent surveys will be collected from participants in parent workshops.*
- *Results from finding will be analyzed and used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement and to be revised if necessary.*
- *The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Liaison attends leadership team meetings, faculty meetings, school functions, board meetings, community meetings, Touching Taliaferro with Love and Family Connection meetings as a means of collecting input from various stakeholders.*
- *Each year, Taliaferro County School District will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I school through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.*
- *During the spring of the year, Taliaferro County 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.*
- *The surveys will be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. A paper copy will also be available for parent's input.*
- *Taliaferro County School District will also use other forums to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services. These strategies are designed to ensure a more effective family engagement program.*
- *Taliaferro County School will use the findings from the school forums and the parent and community surveys' results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.*

## **Reservation of Funds**

The local educational agency will reserve at least 1 percent of its Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement, unless allocation is \$500,000 or less and the LEA will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent will be distributed to schools with priority given to high-need schools.

*Section 1116(a)(3)(A) and Section 1116(a)(3)(C)* Parents and family members of children receiving services under this part shall be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved... are allotted for parental involvement activities. *Section 1116(a)(3)(B)*

**The Taliaferro County School District** receives a Title I allotment of less than \$500,000, and is therefore, not required to set aside 1% of Title I, Part A funds for parent and family engagement. The district does, however, set aside optional funding for parent and family engagement.

- The district will provide workshops for parents of preschool students encouraging more involvement in the daily educational process as well as workshops to enhance parent's knowledge and ability to help students at home.
- The district coordinates with Taliaferro County Family Connections office to provide resources for children under the age of 5 and with the L4GA grant program to support students in grades Pre-K3 to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Opportunities for Meaningful Consultation

Taliaferro County School District acknowledges input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners 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 several meetings opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, school, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals. Taliaferro County School District provides the following opportunities for meaningful consultation:

- Curriculum Night Session
- Parent – Teacher Conferences Session
- Title I Parent and Community Input Meetings
- Georgia Milestones Parent Session

## COORDINATION OF SERVICES

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

Taliaferro County School District will provide services and programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- *The district will provide workshops for parents of preschool students encouraging more involvement in the daily educational process as well as workshops to enhance parent's knowledge and ability to help students at home.*
- *The district is coordinating with Taliaferro County Family Connections office to provide resources for children under the age of 5 and with The Department of Labor's Jobs for Georgia Graduates (JGG) program to support students in grades 9 – 12.*

## BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Taliaferro County School District** will build partnership between its Title I School, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. Also, with the assistance of its Title I school every effort is being made to build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement 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

- *Parent workshops will be held throughout the year. Topics will include utilizing the student parent portal information system to monitor student progress, parent-teacher collaboration, state standards and assessments (GA Milestones & GAA) financial aid, college readiness & applications, helping children with homework (including new math skills), parent-child communication. Parents will also receive educational pamphlets relating to active engagement in schools and supporting their child/ren at home and quarterly reports from teachers detailing the standards classes will be working. An annual advisement meeting will be held with parents of students in grades 9-12 where they will be notified of*



*the state requirements to receive a high school diploma (and all classes required over their child's 4-year high school career).*

- *Post-secondary options will be discussed, and students will have various opportunities over the duration of high school to attend college and technical school tours. Fee waivers guidelines and opportunities for SAT and college admissions will be discussed.*
- *Parents of elementary, middle, and high school students will receive specific district-wide and state regulations in the student handbook. Monthly calendars and informational flyers will be sent home listing important dates and information related to progress reports, report cards, testing, holidays, review meetings, etc.*
- *Parents of students with disabilities (SWD) will have various opportunities to meet with school level personnel regarding adequate services for their child/ren.*
- *An LEA parent council will be maintained to provide advice on all matters related to parent involvement in Title I. Part A programs and school programs.*
- *Meetings & Workshops will be held at various times to accommodate parent schedules. Parents may receive individualize invitations to school workshops and events.*
- *Parent Conferences will be held at least twice during the school year. Sessions will have flexible times to accommodate parent schedules.*
- *Flyers, surveys, and mailings will be sent home (in home language specified in the Home Language Survey). Articles will be published in the local Advocate Democrat newspaper, on the school website, school's newsletter, marquis, Facebook page, and Remind 101up-dating parents and stakeholders of events and activities taking place at the local school. Announcements are also made at school functions/meetings and community meetings.*
- *Meeting and Activities will be held to provide information, materials, and trainings on topic such as:*
  - *The Georgia Standards of Excellence*
  - *Georgia Milestones*
  - *Title I. Part A Requirements*
  - *Strategies parents can use to support their child's academic progress.*
  - *Partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievement.*
  - *The workshops/events, classes, resources will be provided to support parents in helping their student's academic success includes but are not limited to the following:*
    1. *Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) (Annually).*
    2. *Title I Parent and Family Engagement Stakeholders Input Meeting (Annually).*
    3. *Title I Parental Center Facilitator District and Regional workshops such as Jaguars Future Day, Literacy Workshops, Math Carnival Night, Hispanic & Culture Nights, Georgia Milestone Informational Sessions, and Parent Portal Training, PTA, Progress Reports Pickup Information Sessions*

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The **Taliaferro 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:

- *The district will provide building staff capacity workshops during pre-planning of each school year.*



- *The district will provide building staff capacity training workshops to teach faculty and staff members how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners.*
- *The district will provide staff communication workshops and facilitate the continued success of the Parent-Teacher Organization that fosters rapport between school staff and students' parents.*
- *Information related to district, school, parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents.*
- *Taliaferro County School System will send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format.*
- *During the beginning of the year faculty and staff of Taliaferro County School will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents preferred language*
- *District and/or schools will build capacity through meetings, workshops, trainings, webinars, and resources that will be used to work with parents as equal partners.*
- *The district and schools will provide information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, and in a language that parents can understand. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.*

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

**Taliaferro County School District** will develop training classes for teachers, parents, community members and leaders in improving the effectiveness of educating students. We will also train parents and family members to enhance the involvement of other parent by using the Taliaferro County School Advisory Council. Regular meeting will be held with the advisory council to discuss issues and means of engaging parents to be more involved in the educational process.

- *Open discussion sessions will be held to maximize parental involvement, and participation in their child/ren classroom.*
- *Parent sessions, Georgia Milestone parent session, curriculum nights (literacy, math, science, cultural and history nights)*
- *Parent technology trainings (parent portal training, email training/social media trainings)*
- *Progress report pickup days and parent -teachers conferences will be held for teachers to talk with, motivate and educate parents on how to help their child/ren with homework skill or other item of interest.*
- *The Georgia Standards of Excellence will also be given to parents and discussed throughout the year.*
- *Taliaferro County School District will continue to work with community organizations such as, Touching Taliaferro with Love, Chamber of Commerce, State Farm Insurance Agency, Taliaferro County Health Department, County Commissioners, Taliaferro County PTA, FBLA/CTAE, Taliaferro County Sherriff Department and local churches to engage parents, families, and community member in the support of education at Taliaferro County School.*



**Taliaferro County School District** will pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training session.

- *Provide constructive activities for youth while parents are engaged through student organization such as Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA).*
- *Provide for home visits.*
- *Provide transportation for some parent/student school related meetings/training events.*
- *Will train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.*
- *Implement a parent mentor program where parent mentors will train and reach out to other parents.*



- *Will maximize parental involvement and participation of parents in their child/ren's education by arranging school meetings at a variety of times, conduct in-home conferences for parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.*
- *Vary meeting times throughout the school year for school meetings and other activities.*
- *Implement home and community visits.*
- *Will adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.*
- *Implement parenting classes based on strengthening strong family teen program including: Parenting pre-teens and teens; helping Move toward Adulthood, Involvement in School, Helping with Peer Pressure; and Helping Succeed in School.*
- *Work with Family Connection and New Beginnings Program in implementing early learning initiatives.*
- *Implement mentoring program with the help of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority to help encourage and motivate students to excel with the help of parents.*

## 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 November 1, 2023. This policy was adopted by the Taliaferro County School District on 9/18/2023 (date) 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 1, 2023.

(Signature of Authorized Official) Allen B. Fort  
Superintendent

(Date) 9/18/2023