

Vidalia City School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

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, Vidalia City Schools (VCS) 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 VCS'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. VCS 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

Beginning in Spring 2025, the district and schools held annual stakeholder meetings in which all parents were invited to participate and share suggestions to strengthen the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2025–2026 school year. Parents were notified of these meetings through school communications and announcements posted on the district website.

During the meetings, parents reviewed and discussed both the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the School Improvement Plan. In addition, each Title I school utilized its School Governance Team to review the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy prior to the conclusion of the 2025–2026 school year.

Following final revisions, the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy was incorporated into the CLIP and submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. Parents are encouraged to provide feedback on the policy at any time through the district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All input received by **September 29, 2025**, was reviewed and considered during the revision process.

To ensure accessibility, the district will distribute this policy by posting it on district and school websites, making copies available in parent resource centers, sharing it during annual Title I school meetings each fall, and emailing the link to all parents in a format and language that is clear and understandable.

Communications

Vidalia City Schools, in collaboration with each school, maintains consistent communication with families and the community about district and school events through multiple platforms, including phone and text messages, emails, social media, newsletters, and flyers. Information is provided in English and, when possible, in other languages through written communication, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events. To encourage participation, events are offered at varied times and in different formats to accommodate family schedules, and child care or transportation is provided when identified as a barrier to participation. In addition, opportunities for regular meetings are available upon request to give parents a chance to share input, ask questions, or discuss their child's academic progress.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district and school Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Coordinators will work collaboratively to provide technical assistance and ongoing support to all Title I schools. Together, they will ensure that all family engagement requirements are met and that meaningful strategies and activities are effectively implemented to foster strong partnerships between families and schools.

Title I schools will receive regular updates, notifications, and resources from both the Title I Director and District PFE Coordinator to strengthen and enhance family engagement efforts. In addition to consistent communication and on-site visits, the district and school PFE Coordinators will participate in monthly meetings and training sessions with Title I principals to review, monitor, and refine each school's family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

Vidalia City Schools will reserve one percent of the total Title I funds received for the 2025–2026 school year to fulfill the parent and family engagement requirements outlined in this policy and as mandated by federal law. Of this amount, 90 percent will be distributed to Title I schools to support local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an effective family engagement budget that aligns with its needs assessment and incorporates parent input.

Beginning in the spring of 2025, each Title I school will hold stakeholder meetings to gather parent suggestions on how family engagement funds should be used at both the district and school levels for the upcoming year. In addition, parent surveys will be emailed and posted on district and school websites to collect feedback regarding school improvement and family engagement. Comments, written suggestions, and meeting minutes from these sessions and surveys will be reviewed by the district to identify areas of need and guide revisions to the family engagement budget.

Parents are encouraged to share suggestions at any time by contacting the Federal Programs Director at the district office.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and feedback from parents, families, and community partners play a vital role in the development of both district and school improvement plans each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to participate in two annual meeting opportunities described in this section. During these meetings, parents are encouraged to share ideas and suggestions that support the district, schools, and students in achieving academic success and meeting established performance goals.

District Stakeholder Meetings~ 2026

Stakeholders are invited to participate in stakeholder input meetings hosted by Vidalia City Schools to review and provide feedback on the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the 2026–2027 school year. During these meetings, participants will have the opportunity to hear updates from the district and share suggestions to strengthen family and community engagement. Notices about the stakeholder input meetings will be sent to parents in advance.

In addition, all parents will receive an evaluation survey to provide feedback on family engagement efforts and to share input that will help guide the development of future district and school plans.

School Improvement Parent Forums ~ May, 2026

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send invitations home as well as email and social media posts to notify them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites.

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 and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings?

Click [Here](#)

to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the [Vidalia City Schools](#) website.



Annual Title I Meeting~ August-September, 2025

At the beginning of the school year, all Title I schools will host a meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, all Title I schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students the 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, and reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.

Building Capacity

Vidalia City Schools will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, VCS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives. The PFE meets with the family engagement team and building administrators to plan events throughout the school year that focus on training parents on how to help their child learn at home. This initiative supports teachers and families as they partner to address academic goals through at-home learning activities.

Of Parents - Vidalia City Schools will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to student learning, the State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding how to access the parent portal and digital learning resources. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

The district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and other materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools, including copies in Spanish or other understandable languages.

Vidalia City Schools will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten sign-up days, Middle and High School Transition Nights, and College and Career activities so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Of School Staff - Vidalia City Schools will conduct 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. Vidalia City Schools Family Engagement Coordinator will work with school leaders to train the entire school staff to engage parents in their child's learning. The purpose of staff training is to coordinate the sustainability and growth of family engagement initiatives in the district.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and engagement 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 family engagement 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, local news media, and social media to post information for parents. In addition, district and school staff will respond to parent requests for reasonable support for family engagement activities.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, VCS 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 schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and email or post 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 School Improvement Forum 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.

VCS will use the findings from the school forums 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 policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with program coordinators and directors 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.

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy 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 State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by Vidalia City Schools on September 30, 2025 and will be in effect for the 2025-2026 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during the first week of fall semester.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
February-March 2026

Parent Forums
April-May 2026 (TBA) –
Local school site

District Stakeholder Meetings
April 2026 (TBA) –
Vidalia City BOE

For Schools

Engaging Leaders Training
March 2026 –
Vidalia City BOE

Parent Advisory Committee
Meetings
Once per month on school
calendar for 2025-2026

