

Bowdon Elementary School

A Title One School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan



2023-2024

Revision Date: August 7, 2023

Bowdon Elementary School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success

2023-2024 School Year

*Bowdon Elementary School
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Plan Revised July 13, 2023

What is Title I?

Bowdon Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of 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 Bowdon Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student mastery of the Georgia Academic Standards. An explanation of the standards may be found at: [Georgia Performance Standards](#). Bowdon 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 Bowdon 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?

Bowdon Elementary School invited all parents to attend our annual School Forum in July to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the school-wide plan, our school-parent compact, the family engagement budget, and the building of staff. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year. 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 and by mail 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. If parents are not satisfied with the Parent and Family Engagement Plan and would like to submit comments to the district please contact Heather Duke at 770-832-3568.

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. Bowdon Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the plan is included in the student handbook that is available to all students on-line or a paper copy may be requested through the front office. The plan will also be posted on the school website and social media. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center or in the front office.

2023-2024 District Goals

The Carroll County Board of Education establishes goals for the entire school system. The goals for the 2023-2024 school year includes: The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science End of Grade Assessments will increase by 3%. The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) in subgroup categories of economically disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities, and English Language students will increase in each area by 6%.

2023-2024 School Goals

Bowdon Elementary school goals will be to raise the GMAS scores of all students by 3%, increase 2024 STAR Reading and Math goals by 3%. Our 2023-2024 focus area will be reading instruction for K-2 with the rollout of decodable readers, phonics skills, and writing. Another focus area will be 3-5 Reading and ELA skills with an emphasis on Craft and Structure for grades 3-5 and basic writing for grades 3-5 as measured by the 2023 Georgia Milestones. In 3-5 math, we will focus on number sense and operations for the 2023-2024 school year.

Areas of Emphasis

- Grades K-5 will focus on early literacy skills with emphasis on phonics instruction, fluency, and writing skills.
- Grades K-2 focus on increasing understanding of Number Sense
- Grades 3-5 focus on increasing understanding of Problem Solving in Math, Fact Fluency and Operations/Fractions.
- English Language Learners, Economically Disadvantaged, and Students with Disabilities will receive additional support, materials, and strategies in the area of reading/ELA and math as needed.

Let's Get Together!

Bowdon 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. All meetings for parents and family members will be held at BES.

Open House – August 1, 2023

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.

Annual Title I Meeting – August 15, 2023 (2 Sessions to Choose From)

We invite you to a morning and/or evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the school wide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be sent home with each student, posted on social media, and advertised on our school marquee (Building Parent Capacities). The Annual Title I Meeting will be held August 15 at 9:00 am and 4:00 p.m. in the BES library.

Reading Night -September 19, 2023 (In Person & Virtual Updates from Meeting)

Learn how to make reading fun at home. At home strategies will be shared for parents to help students develop into a successful reader. Included also are technology supports and innovative programs for students to use at home to improve reading skills. Parents will be informed about curriculum and goal setting in all subject areas.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Technology (STEAM Night)/ Science Fair– November 28, 2023 (In Person & Virtual Updates from Meeting)

Parents will enjoy hands on learning with students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics. At home learning activities will be shared with parents to encourage inquiry in and out of school.

Math Night- February 13, 2024 (In Person & Virtual Updates from Meeting)

Learn how to help your child with math homework. At home strategies will be shared for parents to help students reinforce math concepts Included also are technology supports and innovative programs for students to use at home to improve math skills.

Milestone Testing Night- April 9, 2024 (In Person & Virtual Updates from Meeting)

Learn about test taking strategies and formats at the annual Milestone Testing Night. This workshop will encourage good taking strategies in the area of math and reading.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Bowdon Elementary staff, families, and students will develop a school-parent compact.

This agreement will explain how parents, teachers, and students share a common partnership and work together to help student reach grade level goals, future focused goals, and challenging state academic reading, math, and science goals.

The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers. The school-parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.

Stakeholder Decision Making

Each year Bowdon Elementary School surveys parents, students and staff to gather information about Bowdon Elementary. This information is used to guide the School Improvement Team in developing a School-Wide Title One Plan. In addition, Bowdon Elementary holds a Parent and Stakeholder Input Meeting to gather direct feedback from parents on the School-Wide Title One Plan, Title One Budget, School Compact and Parent and Family Engagement Plan. We also routinely survey parents about different opportunities for them to be involved in our school and continued family engagement activities to promote school/community partnerships. This year, BES has formed an Advisory Council that meets quarterly to ask for parent input in ways to make our school better. All input obtained is used in combination with survey data toward the development of the most comprehensive plans possible for Bowdon Elementary.



Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center located on our front office to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. In addition, computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday – Friday, 7:30 am – 2:30 pm

Parent and Family Engagement

Bowdon 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:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.

Bowdon Elementary is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or email us if you need assistance with childcare or in order to participate in our programs. We can offer online, in person, individual, and even home visits to support parent engagement. We are happy to work with CCS Social Workers to provide transportation for meetings or school-wide events.

Cindy Wilson
(770)258-2161
cindy.wilson@carrollcountyschools.com

Bowdon Elementary is Branching Out!

Bowdon Elementary will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and 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 when necessary, posted on the social media/school website, and included in the 9 weeks school newsletter for all families in other languages as necessary.
- ✓ Provide professional learning training for staff during their pre-planning on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with reading and math activities for our students outside of the classroom.
- ✓ Partner with early childhood programs, middle and high schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ✓ Offer DOJO access to each parent for digital communication throughout the school year.
- ✓ Provide parents with current up to date curriculum by the first nine weeks using county-wide curriculum maps and state standards of excellence.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities, through phone messages, social media, school marquee 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, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Use our School-Council Team to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement policy.
- ✓ Offer literacy and math classes for parents and family members to help further enhance their various educational levels.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and family members at parent events and in the parent café through a suggestion box.
- ✓ Partner with parents to provide a description of State Mandated Assessments and Formative School Assessments which will be used with their student. Parents will also evaluate this information.
- ✓ Provide parents with data for weekly curriculum test (short and frequent assessments), universal screeners, common assessments, and results of current state mandated test scores through the agenda.
- ✓ Detail goal setting and student progress towards Bowdon Elementary Vital Bowdon Way goals and future focused goals.



Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Bowdon 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

School Council Team

Bowdon Elementary meets a minimum on four times a year with the BES School Council Team. This team is made up of 2 parent representations, the principal, assistant principal, 2 teachers, and 1 business community member. The goal of this council is to make better decisions for the benefit for our students at BES. Every two years' school council members are nominated and voted on to reinstate a new school council on a rotation basis. A School Council Member usually serves two years. If you are interested in being nominated as a School Council Representative, please email Mrs. Edwards at ginny.edwards@carrollcountyschools.com



Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: __ (Optional) _____

Telephone Number: (Optional) _____

Comments: _____

Bowdon Elementary School Vision/Mission

Vision: BES will ensure overall educational success by building and strengthening positive connections between students, faculty, staff, and stakeholders.

Mission: BES strives to provide a premier education in a safe and respectful environment that will prepare students for excellence in middle school.

Purpose: To empower students, faculty, and staff to believe they are equipped to change their community one life at a time.