



# JONES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY

FY 2016-2017 PLEASE PROVIDE COMMENTS

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## What is Parental Involvement

Parental involvement means the participation of parents 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 1118 of the ESEA.

*“Education...is painful, continual and difficult work to be done in kindness, by watching, by warning,... by praise, but above all... by example.”*

- John Ruskin

## About The Parental Involvement Policy (PIP)

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Jones County School System (JCSS) has developed this parental involvement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe JCSS'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 reach the district's goals for increased student academic achievement.

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 substantive parental involvement 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 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with 1118, the district will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118 (b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.

## Mark Your Calendars

- Board of Education Every second Tuesday
- District Title I Meetings September 19, 2016 & April 17, 2017 9:00-10:00 & 6:00—7:00
- District Title I PIC meetings 3rd Thursday each month.
- Annual Parent Survey April 10—28, 2017
- LEA school site revision meetings March –May, 2017.
- School Title I Meetings Check your school calendar for dates and times.





## Family and School Working Together

### To Strengthen Our Schools

Jones County Schools will build the school's' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through districtwide activities and programs.

The district will provide notifications and resources to help improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and Parent Instructional Coordinators (PICs) will meet monthly for trainings share notifications, resources, and provide assistance in ideas for improving plans and activities for growing family engagement. Finally, the district will convene a summer meeting (June/July) PICs to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parental involvement activities and meetings for the upcoming year.

### Jointly Developed

The district parental involvement policy (PIP) was posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.

The District and schools Title I Parent Meetings in March, April, and May all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district and school PIPs for the 2016-17 school year. During these meetings, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each school council and district Parent Advisory reviews the district PIP before the end of the year.

After completion of all revisions, the district PIP was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time of the school district web site or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received was included with the policy for this school year.

The district and schools advertised these meetings in at least two methods; local newspaper, district and school Web pagers, a flyer, calendar, marquee, phone message, email, or text.

### Reservation of funds

The JCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY17 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.. Furthermore, the JCSS will ensure that not less than 95% of the 1% reserved goes directly to support the schools parental involvement programs and activities.

In addition to the 1% set-aside, Title I schools within the LEA use Title I funds allocated to them to a) support a 25% parent coordinator, b) operate parent centers, c) purchase supplies and materials for parent activities, d) conduct parent workshops and school-wide events.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to asses each Title I school in developing a parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host annual School Improvement sessions in March - May for parents to provide suggestions on how parental involvement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Parent surveys, comment cards, and minutes from events during the year will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need in the upcoming school year and consider changes to the parental involvement budget.



## Schools Build Parent Capacity

Title I schools provide several opportunities for parents to attend academic, technology, assessment, and other strategy workshops to enhance and support the learning process of their child at home. The dates and times of these events will be posted on each school's website, advertised by newsletters, flyers, call outs and/or marques.

JCSS will collaborate with other programs such as Head Start and other state funded pre-school programs to integrate effective parent involvement strategies. The LEA promotes and advertises Pre-K registration. Local schools advertise and work with public and private Pre-K facilities to provide information on registration information, assistance with transitions, and tours of school facilities. Pre-K students are invited to attend and spend a portion of the day in a kindergarten class, as well as eat lunch and enjoy time on the playground.

Schools provide support for 5th, 8th, and 9th grader students and their parents in transitioning to the next grade on a new campus.



## Building School and Parent Capacity

The JCSS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

JCSS supports families with their first responsibility as their child's first teacher. The district will work with the school's administration and Parent Involvement Coordinators (PICs), a certified educator, in order to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information for their student's learning and progress. Additionally, the district will work with schools to provide ongoing information and updates on the Title I program. Each school will facilitate activities to assist parents in understanding Georgia Standards of Excellence, achievement and assessment standards for Georgia students including alternative assessments. PICs will maintain a parent resource center for checking out materials and providing information to support and help engage parents in the learning process.

The district will work with school PICs to ensure assessment information, interpretation guides, and translation of materials is accessible for all those in need. Parent notifications and Title I events will be sent home to parents in their native language. All information posted on websites as well as translators for meetings/events, upon request, will be provided to the extent possible.

The district will meet twice annually with administrators and PICs, meet monthly with PICs as a group to network, enhance parental engagement strategies, improve communication, and build ties with parents and community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff.

The JCSS has established a districtwide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parents representing each Title I school to provide advice on all matters of parent engagement related to parent involvement in the Title I program. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to provide their input on creating stronger ties with schools, parents, and the community.



## Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents 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 meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, school, and students reach our student academic achievement goals.

School revision meetings are held from March-May, 2017 to create discussion for review of school improvement plan, parent involvement plan, district parent involvement plan, CLIP, as well as funding expenditures for parent involvement. Each Title I school will advertise to notify parents of dates and times in a minimum of two methods such as newsletters, flyers, websites, marquees, newspaper, and more.

Unable to attend the meetings? Please visit the school website to review meeting minutes, documents, and leave your input.

## Adoption

This policy was adopted by the Jones County School System on July 13, 2016 and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 5, 2016.

## Evaluation

Each year, the JCSS will evaluate the effectiveness of the JCSS Parent Involvement Policy and the parental involvement activities to improve academic quality of the Title I schools with an annual survey and school revision meetings.

The survey will be posted on the district and school websites as well as provided as a hard copy when requested. Each school starting in late winter and early spring will begin to hold meetings with parents for the purpose of feedback on improving the district and school parent involvement policies. Additionally, each schools request feedback via a survey after each Title I event held at the school.

The JCSS at the district sessions and school forums request input from parents on ideas for improving family engagement and spending parent involvement funds. Findings from surveys, forums, and ongoing event feedback will guide improvement in future parent involvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise parent involvement policies.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent involvement requirements established by Section of the ESEA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Officer of Student Support Services to ensure full opportunities for the 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.

