



JONES COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN FY 2017-2018



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What is Family Engagement

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family 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 ESSA.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

- Nelson Mandela

About The Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFEP)

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Jones County School System (JCSS) has developed this parental and family engagement plan 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 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 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 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (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. Consistent with Section 1116, the JCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Mark Your Calendars

- Board of Education meeting every second Tuesday
- Annual Parent Survey April 9– 23, 2018
- LEA school site revision meetings March–May, 2018.
- School Title I events check your school calendar for dates and times.





Family and School Working Together

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent online communication, phone conversations, and school visits, the district FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with Title I schools' principals and/or school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a summer session with school FECs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the upcoming school year.

Jointly Developed

Jones County School District and the LEA schools' held annual meetings during April-May for all parents to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement plan for 2017-2018 school year. The district posted online, advertised in the parent and family engagement plan, and on school websites. The Parent Advisory Council during the year assisted with reviewing and discussing the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, each Title I school used its school council and annual revision meetings to review the district parent and family engagement plan before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by June was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement plan 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.

Reservation of funds

The JCSS will reserve 1% percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY18 to carry out parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the JCSS will distribute 90% of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their school level family and engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

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.

Each Title I school will host annual School Improvement Forums in March - May for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement 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 family engagement budget.



Schools Build Parent Capacity

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

The district will meet twice annually with administrators and school FECs, as well as monthly with FECs to learn and discuss ways to network, discuss strategies in order 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.

Additionally, the district will work with schools to provide ongoing information and updates on the Title I program. School Family Engagement Coordinators (FEC) will maintain a parent resource center for checking out materials and providing information to support and help engage parents in the learning process. A Title I Parent and Family Engagement Handbook will be made available to all parents.



Building School and Parent Capacity

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

JCSS will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The JCSS will provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes and meetings will be posted on the district website and shared through each Title I school's website and newsletter.

JCSS will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in their native language. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), the JCSS media specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

To ensure that information related to the district, school, parent programs, and 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 the parents native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events. Information posted on websites will be translated to the extent practicable. The district also utilizes One Call system, district and school websites, newsletters, local newspaper, and other forms of school message systems to post information for parents.



Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, JCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Revision meetings.

Beginning in late winter and early spring, each Title I school will post surveys and hold revision meetings with parents in order to gain valuable feedback with discussions regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. Surveys will be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. 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.

Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement plan 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 district parent and family engagement meetings.

This plan was adopted by Jones County School System on July 20, 2017 and will be in effect for the 2017 - 2018 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I children on or before September 1, 2017.

Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members 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.

District and School Stakeholder Input Sessions ~ March—May, 2018

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Jones County School System as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year. School revision meetings are held from March-May, 2018 to create discussion for review of school improvement plan, parent and family engagement plan, district parent and family engagement 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.



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 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.