

# Parent & Family Engagement Policy

2024-2025



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[www.forsyth.k12.ga.us](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us)

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# INTRODUCTION

**Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:**

## What is Family Engagement?

- (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.



# FCS Parent & Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Forsyth County Schools has partnered with families to develop this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations 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 FCS'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. The neglected and delinquent residential facilities in Title I school attendance zones (Jesse's House and Bald Ridge Lodge) are included in all parent and family engagement opportunities and communication.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to perform better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for effective 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, caregivers, and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, FCS 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.

## ABOUT THE POLICY

# JOINTLY DEVELOPED



Each Title I school hosted a spring planning meeting in which all parents were invited to give direct input and/or complete a survey to provide input on the following:

- Comprehensive Needs Assessment
- School Improvement Plans (SIP)
- Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- District Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Parents also have an opportunity to participate on a Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee that meets several times each spring at the district level. The district emailed all families through infinite campus messenger. FCS also posted community notices of the CLIP meetings as well as how to give input on the Parent and Family Engagement Policy on all of the district location marquee signs, on social media platforms and the district website. During the CLIP meetings, parents also reviewed, discussed, and gave input on the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan as well as the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

All input and feedback received in April-June 2024 was included with the policy for this school year, as applicable. Upon final revision, the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy 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 on the school district website or by submitting written comments to the child's Title I school. The District Parent and Family Engagement Policy is posted on district and school websites, distributed at the annual Title I school meetings, and made available in the Title I schools' parent resource centers.



This year, the district Title I staff will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure that all family engagement requirements are being met and that effective evidenced based parent and family engagement strategies as well as activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the family engagement coordinator to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.


In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district Title I staff will hold meetings and trainings with Title I school principals, instructional lead Title I teachers, Title I staff, and school family engagement coordinators (FEC) to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene and host meetings for principals and family engagement coordinators to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings throughout the entire school year.



# STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS



# RESERVATION OF FUNDS



Forsyth County Schools will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY25 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, FCS will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level family 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. Each Title I school will host an annual School Improvement (SIP) planning meeting in the spring for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level.

An annual evaluation is conducted with district Title I staff and Title I schools staff and families to evaluate the effectiveness of the district and school's family engagement program. Parent input surveys are also given each spring which also provide parents and families an opportunity to give suggestions for the next year's budget. Additionally, parents also have other opportunities to provide input on the budget such as providing online input, sharing input during family engagement nights at the Title I schools and during advisory council or committee meetings. Minutes and other documentation from these meetings will be analyzed by the district and school staff to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement programs and budgets.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENT INPUT



Input and feedback 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 request additional support and share their ideas and suggestions for other reasonable support needed in order to help the district, schools, and students reach our academic achievement goals and improve our parent involvement programs.

## School Improvement/CLIP Meetings- March-April 2025

Each Title I school will host a forum as a primary method of involving families to participate in discussions/meetings for input on the Title I School Improvement Plan, the district and each individual school's parent and family engagement policies as well the family engagement budget, required documents and programs.

Each Title I school will send a notification home to parents explaining to them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the School Improvement Meeting will also be made available on the school websites and posted on social media. Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parent and family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. Surveys will be utilized as a secondary method of providing families an opportunity to give input and feedback.

## Annual District CLIP Community Meetings- March-June 2025

Each spring, the district convenes a Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) committee to review current and past district data to determine and prioritize assessed needs. The assessed needs are then written into goals with action steps that will be used to achieve the district goals. All parents are welcome to review and provide input into the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the 2025-26 school year.

Notices regarding these meetings will be sent to community leaders and may be included in the local newspaper inviting all parents to attend the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district marquees, the website and social media.



# Other Parent Representative Forums- 2024-2025 School Year

An opportunity for input on the the district and Title I schools individual family engagement policy is provided to the following:

- Parents and family members who serve on advisory committees and Local School Councils at individual Title I schools in the district
- Parents of participating students in prekindergarten transition activities
- Parents participating in district school-readiness and family literacy training

Input can also be provided on the Title I budget as well as school improvement throughout the school year.

If you are unable to attend these meetings please visit [www.forsyth.k12.ga.us](http://www.forsyth.k12.ga.us) to review the meeting documents and provide input.

## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ANNUAL EVALUATION

Each year, Forsyth County Schools will conduct a comprehensive needs assessment and an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy. Additionally a review of the family engagement activities implemented to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools will be done through an annual parent survey. School and District Improvement Meetings are held annually in the spring at both the school and district levels in which input from all stakeholders is gathered to review the effectiveness of family engagement programs and the policy.

Beginning in the spring, each Title I school will send home a link to a survey, or a paper copy when applicable, for parents and families to provide valuable feedback regarding the family engagement activities and programs. The link to this survey will also be posted on the school social media and website for parents to complete. The district Comprehensive Needs Assessment Committee serves as a focus group for the district and they are also given the opportunity to provide input on the district parent and family engagement policy. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will host a School Improvement Meeting to facilitate discussion of the needs of parents of students eligible for Title I services and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

Forsyth County Schools will analyze and use this input from the forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to identify and remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plans.

# Building School & Parent Capacity

Forsyth County Schools will build the Title I schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. Capacity building will focus on strategies that support building partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. FCS will utilize district and school activities and programs to build capacity and support a strong collaboration between home and school.

FCS will work with district Title I staff and through the 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. Title I schools will provide parents with opportunities to attend family engagement events and activities throughout the school year that will include the following topics:

- information about Title I programs and requirements
- establishing effective partnerships with schools
- review of the Georgia Standards of Excellence
- overview of the Georgia Milestones and other local assessments
- how to monitor their child's progress.
- ways to using technology for learning
- academic content workshops, trainings and materials that aim to provide parents ways to reinforce learning at home with their children

Each individual Title I school will share dates and times for these family engagement nights by sending home invites as well as posting this information on the website, text messages, and other social media. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harm of copyright piracy), Title I school staff will partner with media and technology staff to host workshops for parents throughout the school year.

FCS will collaborate with Ninth District Opportunity Head Start, Early Head Start, and Georgia Pre-K programs in Forsyth County to support school readiness and successful Kindergarten transition. This collaboration will include partnerships and resources with Transitions Services Office, Title I schools, a collaborative community group called Leap Into Literacy, and district Title I programs to provide support for families. Title I elementary schools will host transitional school readiness programs and activities for students who will be entering Kindergarten that fall and who have had little to no preschool experience. Families from Pre-K classes that are located inside Title I elementary schools have the opportunity to checkout materials in the parent resource rooms too. FCS Title I district office and school staff will continue to collaborate with these and other relevant federal, state, and local programs to implement effective family engagement programs and activities.

**BUILDING CAPACITY**

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, Title I schools will send home pertinent information regarding important dates and events. District testing, student school year, and graduation calendars are posted on the district website as well as on individual school websites.

Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings, when possible. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district and schools will also utilize telephone systems, school websites, local news media, Canvas, and social media to post information for parents. FCS will respond to parent requests for meetings and information in order to provide other reasonable support to families.

District Title I staff provide all Title I school principals, family engagement coordinators, and staff members with trainings and technical assistance throughout the school year on the following topics:

- the value of and how to create family and school partnerships
- strategies for increasing family engagement
- supports for improving school-family communication
- resources for creating welcoming environments
- importance of providing information in family-friendly language
- supports for building ties with parents and the community
- information on how to respond to parent requests
- additional supports needed for an effective family engagement program.

Trainings may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and other nonprofit organizations. These trainings are redelivered to the faculty and staff of the Title I schools. District Title I staff will also conduct visits and/or virtual meetings with each Title I school to review and discuss family engagement requirements and initiatives. Title I Lead teachers, principals, and family engagement coordinators also facilitate trainings for staff at Title I schools to build staff capacity for partnering with families.

A district federal programs advisory council will be reestablished during the 2024-2025 school year that is comprised of parent/caregiver representatives from each Title I school to provide input on all matters related to school improvement and family engagement in Title I programs and to build parent capacity. These parent leaders are encouraged to share information and training they receive with other families and participate in schoolwide planning meetings. Minutes from these meetings will be posted on the district website to increase participation and encourage collaboration.





## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate, coordinate, and collaborate with other federal programs district staff to ensure full participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand. FCS Title I staff will continue to provide families and parents with other reasonable support.

## Adoption of the Policy

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of students participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel through district and school input meetings and online surveys. This policy was adopted by Forsyth County Schools on June 20th, 2024 and will be in effect for the 2024-2025 academic school year. The parent and family engagement policy will be posted to the district and school Web sites by August 31, 2024.

***FORSYTH COUNTY SCHOOLS BELIEVES THAT PARENTS AND FAMILIES ARE AN INVALUABLE RESOURCES TO STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND IS COMMITTED TO DEVELOPING STRONG PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL.***

For more information or questions about family engagement, please contact  
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