

Evans County School System Parent Involvement Policy

PART I. General Expectations

The Evans County Board of Education affirms and assures the rights of parents and teachers of children being served in activities funded by Title I, Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) opportunities to participate in the design and implementation of these activities.

The Evans County School System agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide 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 required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that

not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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 at school;*
- (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.*

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the PIRC in the State.

PART II. Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy Components

1. The Evans County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Host a parent feedback meeting annually for all parents to participate in the analysis of the parental involvement plan and to discuss the plan's effectiveness in meeting the needs of the students and requirements of the Title I program.
 - Distribute parent feedback forms to all parents of students enrolled in Title I schools to involve parents in the development of this policy, the district plan, and use of parent involvement funds.
 - Provide parents access to the information in the district's parental involvement policy and plan through the district website and engage in open communication about the plan during parent meetings, such as the following:
 - Annual Title I Public Meeting
 - School Advisory Council Meetings

- Migrant Parent Advisory Council Meetings
 - Open Houses
 - Parent Workshops
 - Parent Conferences
2. The Evans County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
- Provide parent access to each school's Title I plan, budget, compact, parental involvement policy, and brochure via each school's website. A stakeholder feedback form will also be provided to facilitate parental involvement in the development of these documents and in the expenditure of funds.
 - Hold an annual meeting for parents of students in Title I programs to discuss the review and implementation of the Title I plan, and how Title I funds for parent involvement activities will be used.
 - Distribute an annual written survey to all parents of children enrolled in Title I schools to involve parents in the process of design, review, and improvement of the Title I program.
3. The Evans County School System will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
- Provide guidance on appropriate use of parent involvement funds along with a periodic status report.
 - Review school parent involvement plans to ensure compliance, including minutes from parent meetings showing it was developed jointly with parent input.
4. The Evans County School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start and other State certified early childcare centers by:
- Coordinating with early educational programs to invite families and preschool children into the schools to take a tour and participate in planned activities.
 - Collaborating with external early education programs to develop an effective program that prepares young learners for grade school and parents for school transition.

5. The Evans County School System will conduct annual evaluations of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools and request parent feedback through multiple methods of contact, including but not limited to:

- Surveys (take-home, mailed, electronic, phone call)
- Feedback groups
- Parent meetings (School Advisory Council, Migrant PAC, Annual Title I)

The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The Director of Federal Programs will use the findings of the evaluation about the LEA's parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

6. The Evans County School System 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 school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following,

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators by doing the following:
 - Hosting parent meetings/workshops/classes
 - Sending home information via take-home folders, in planners, or via written correspondence
 - Posting information on the district's website
 - Using the automated calling system

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
- Providing take-home learning materials for parents to use with their children
 - Hosting parent workshops
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- Hosting parent meetings for parents to provide feedback regarding the best ways for schools to communicate with them
 - Disseminating a parent survey annually requesting input about effective school/home communication
 - Providing adequate professional development on parent involvement for teachers and administrators to address topics such as:
 - Communicating with Parents
 - Including Parents in the Homework Process
 - The Basics of Parent Involvement/Engagement
 - Promoting Cultural Competency
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- Coordinating parent involvement efforts to have a greater impact on the community
 - Coordinating the use of parent resources (technology, books, supplies)

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- Provide written communications in a language parents can understand
 - Provide an interpreter as needed for parent meetings
- F. The Evans County School System shall provide other reasonable support for parent involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request. All requests should be submitted to the principal at each Title I school. The principal will then forward such requests to the Director of Federal Programs.

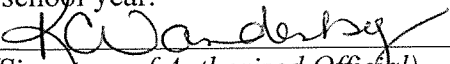
PART III. Discretionary Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy Components

The Evans County School System may:

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents with Part A funds if an LEA has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- Arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between parents who are unable to attend the school meetings with the teachers and other educators who work with their children.
- Adopt and implement approaches to improving parental involvement.
- Establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement funded programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

PART IV. Adoption

The Evans County School System Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs. The policy will be reviewed annually and distributed to all parents by the end of the first nine weeks of each school year.



(Signature of Authorized Official)

6/3/2016

(Date)