

# RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

Revised June 18, 2018

2018-2019

## What is Family Engagement?

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:

- (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.

### **Mission:**

*Building a world-class school system through education, collaboration, and innovation.*

### **Vision:**

*RCSS will create a world-class, globally competitive school system where all students will graduate and are college/career ready.*

### **Learning Today...**

**Leading Tomorrow**



**Richmond County  
School System**

**864 Broad Street  
Augusta, GA 30901  
(706) 826-1000**

**Dr. Angela Pringle,  
Superintendent**



Parents listening to principal's greeting at a Title I end-of-year input /revision meeting

## About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Richmond County School System (RCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy 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 RCSS'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 for 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 RCSS 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.

### Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Title I director will communicate and collaborate with the student services, special education, and curriculum offices to ensure full opportunities for 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.

## Jointly Developed

Throughout second semester of the 2017-2018 school year, parents were given the opportunity to provide input to improve the RCSS Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2018-2019 school year. Parents were invited to give feedback on the district policy at school parent meetings across the district and to complete a survey located on the district website from which their feedback was collected. District policy and feedback forms were distributed to parents at the Title I end-of-year meetings held at the schools. The information was gathered and included in the 2018-2019 RCSS Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (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. All feedback received by June was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I district and school meetings, and made available to parents in school parent centers or guidance offices.





## Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district Title I program specialists 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. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, Title I schools will receive notifications, resources, and training from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

Additionally, the Title I department will provide training to principals during the 2018-2019 district summer leadership team summit and will post a webinar so principals will understand parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.



Parents receiving valuable information at a school's parent night

## Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

The RCSS will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this policy in improving the academic quality of our schools. Parents and family members will be invited to complete a survey during April and May of 2019. Surveys will be available on the district and schools' websites, as well as paper/pencil at various parent meetings. During the Title I end-of-year meetings, parents and family members will be asked to brainstorm strategies that can be used to make parent and family engagement more effective. Information gained from the surveys and meetings will be used to enhance family engagement and to revise the parent and family engagement policy for the upcoming school year.

## Reservation of Funds

The RCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY19 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the RCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to 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 input meeting for parents to provide suggestions as to how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. In addition, parents can complete district surveys on the district website or at various parent and family engagement events such as cluster meetings. Surveys, input forms, and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

# Building Parent and School/Staff Capacity

The RCSS will build parent and school/staff capacity to strengthen parent and family engagement throughout the district.

## Parent Capacity

- Schools will educate parents in understanding the State academic standards, school curriculum, student progress monitoring, and standardized assessments such as Georgia Milestones and End-of-Course tests.
- School staffs will teach parents how to utilize *Active Parenting* to offer evidence-based parenting classes throughout the FY19 school year at various sites. Topics will include improved discipline and communication, attendance, how brain development affects children's behavior and decision-making, parenting a special needs child, seven smart strategies parents can use for immediate school success, and preventing use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.
- School staffs will offer parent workshops on topics suggested by parents such as at-home reading strategies, homework tips, and utilizing community resources.
- The RCSS will 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 in the parent center or guidance office for those families who may have limited internet access. Resources will be available in Spanish when needed.

## Staff Capacity

- School staffs will be trained to educate parents in understanding the State academic standards, school curriculum, student progress monitoring, and standardized assessments such as Georgia Milestones and End-of-Course tests.
- The LEA will train staffs to teach parents how to utilize *Active Parenting* to offer evidence-based parenting classes throughout the FY19 school year at various sites. Topics will include improved discipline and communication, attendance, how brain development affects children's behavior and decision-making, parenting a special needs child, seven smart strategies parents can use for immediate school success, and preventing use of tobacco, alcohol, and other drugs.
- Title I program specialists will work with staffs to plan parent workshops on topics suggested by parents such as at-home reading strategies, homework tips, and utilizing community resources.
- Principals and their leadership teams will receive training during district summer leadership summit to learn strategies to increase parent and family engagement, to plan activities for parents and families throughout the 2018-2019 school year, and to discuss ways to improve communication between the school and families/community.

## Adoption

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy 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 through parent meetings and surveys.

This policy was adopted by the Richmond County School System on June 18, 2018 and will be in effect for the 2018-2019 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2018.

# Get Involved!

Event	Date	Time	Location
Elementary School Open House	August 3, 2018	5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Elementary Schools
Middle School Open House	August 2, 2018	5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	Middle Schools
High School Open House	August 2, 2018	4:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.	High Schools
District Annual Title I Meeting	September 20, 2018	9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.	RCBOE
Elementary Parent Conferences	October 17 and 18, 2018	By appointment	Elementary Schools
Helen Ruffin District Reading Bowl	January 26, 2019	8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	TBD
Helen Ruffin Regional Reading Bowl	February 9, 2019	8:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	TBD
Elementary Parent Conferences	March 20 and 21, 2019	By appointment	Elementary Schools

