

# Hephzibah Elementary School

## *Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success*

*2023-2024 School Year*

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2542 Highway 88  
Hephzibah, GA 30815  
(706) 592-4561

<https://www.rcboe.org/hes>

*Revised July 27, 2023*

## What is Title I?

Hephzibah Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.



## School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

### What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Hephzibah Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Hephzibah Elementary values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Hephzibah Elementary will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.



### How is it revised?

Hephzibah Elementary School invited all parents to attend our annual School Forum last spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year. If the plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school will submit any comments to the district office.

### Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Hephzibah Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

### Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the Richmond County Parent and Family Engagement Plan is included in the student code of conduct book that is given to all students. The Hephzibah Elementary Parent and Family Engagement Plan will also be posted on the school website and distributed at the Title I Annual Meeting. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center.

### District goal

- During the 2023-2024 school year, we will increase student content mastery in tested subject areas on the Georgia Milestones by 3%.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, we will increase post-high school readiness by increasing our graduation rate from 71% to 75%.
- During the 2023-2024 school year, we will increase the number of highly effective teachers and leaders retained in RCSS by 3%.

### School Goals

- By the conclusion of the 2023-2024 School Year, we will increase 3rd-5th grade student literacy skills in the domains of vocabulary and reading comprehension by 15% based upon the BOY iReady diagnostic baseline score results compared to the EOY results.
- By the end of the 23-24 school year, we will improve student attendance by reducing the number of students with 10 or more absences by 5% from 59% to 54% as indicated by SLDS attendance reports.
- By the conclusion of the 23-24 school year, we will increase 3rd-5th grade numeracy in the domain of algebraic thinking by 15% based upon the BOY diagnostic baseline score versus the EOY iReady diagnostic.

## School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Hephzibah Elementary and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compact will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, teachers and all other stakeholders. The school- parent compacts are shared with parents during open house, the Title I Annual Meeting, online, during parent-teacher conferences and in the parent resource center.

## Let's Get Together!

Hephzibah Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Meetings for parents and family members will be held at various times (morning, afternoon and evenings).

### ***Back to School Kick-off/ Open-House – August 2023***

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.

### ***Student of the Month – August 2023 – May 2024***

Parents/ Guardians will be invited to recognize students that displayed the IB Learner Attribute for the Month.

### ***Annual Title I Meeting –October 2023***

We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be emailed and posted in the school newsletter, social media, and local media.

### ***Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences – September - October, 2023***

Scheduled updates on your child's progress.

### ***Pumpkin Patch – October 2023***

### ***Red Ribbon Week – October 2023***

### ***Holiday Around the World – December 2023***

### ***IB/Science Fair Night – February 2024***

Gain knowledge about IB and Science Fair projects.

### ***Black History Program – February 2024***

Learn about history!

### ***Read Across America – March 2024***

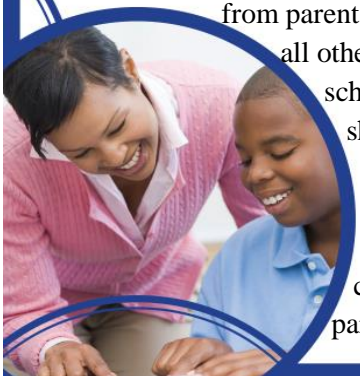
A celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday!

### ***Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences – February, - March, 2024***

Scheduled updates on your child's progress.

### ***Input and Revision Meeting – March 2024***

A forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions with the principal and staff regarding the schoolwide plan, parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compacts, and the family engagement budget.



## Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday – Friday, 8:00 am – 2:00 pm

## Parent and Family Engagement

Hephzibah Elementary believes that 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:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

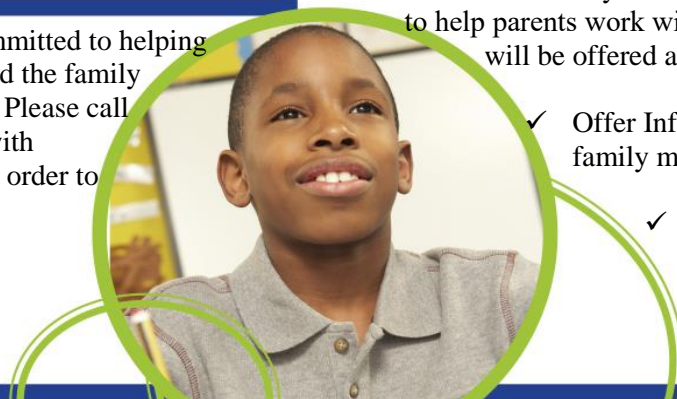
Hephzibah Elementary is committed to helping our parents and families attend the family activities listed in this policy. Please call or us if you need assistance with child care or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

(706) 592-4561

## Hephzibah Elementary is Branching Out!

Hephzibah Elementary will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in an understandable format and language and posted on the school website.
- ✓ Provide trainings for staff on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family engagement with reading and math activities for our students outside of the classroom. Staff will also share best practices during regularly scheduled faculty meetings.
- ✓ Partner with early childhood programs, middle schools, college and career ready resources or organizations, parent resource centers, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ✓ Share information for parents to understand the school's curriculum, academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators. Provide parents with individual student assessment results and interpretation of those results.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, through phone messages, the school website, and flyers.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement. These meetings will be offered at various times (morning and evening) and in various formats.
- ✓ Offer Infinite Campus account set up and assistance with usage for parents and family members to monitor their student's progress.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents and family members at all events and post a survey on the school website in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.



## Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Hephzibah Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

## School Council

Hephzibah Elementary has developed a School Council to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The School Council meets four times during the school year, but all parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any of the school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent surveys and website.



## School Volunteer

- Yes, I am interested and wish to be trained and join the School Volunteer Team.
- Please contact me so I can learn more in joining the School Volunteer Team.
- Please send me notifications about future Volunteer Training Workshops.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Name and Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

## Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

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