

# Academy of Richmond County

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

2020–2021 School Year

Jason Medlin, Principal  
910 Russell Street  
Augusta, GA 30904  
(706) 737-7152

<http://arc.rcboe.org/>

*Plan Revised: September 15, 2020*

### **What is Title I?**

The Academy of Richmond County 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 the Academy of Richmond County will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. ARC 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 the Academy of Richmond County 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?**

The Academy of Richmond County 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 school-wide 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. ARC 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 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.

## 2020–21 District Goals

By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, the RCSS will increase the number of highly effective teachers and leaders hired and retained by 3% to impact academic achievement across all content areas. Also, identify, integrate, and expand technology access for 60% of the student population.

## 2020–21 School Goals

By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, ARC will increase enrollment in AP courses by 5%.

By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, ARC will increase accessibility to technology to support student learning by 30%.

By the end of the 2020-2021 school year, ARC will increase student access to tutoring opportunities to 100% of students who request the services.

## School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, ARC 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!

ARC 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.

**Open House – August 31, 2020 and September 2, 2020 5:00pm-8:00pm**  
*Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.*

**School Council Meeting- September 21, 2020, 3:45pm**  
*This meeting is an opportunity for collaboration between staff, students, community members, and other stakeholders to make decisions on what best supports the school.*

**Coffee with the Counselor- September 28, 2020, 9:00am**  
*Speak with counselors about returning to the "new normal" and transitioning back to school.*

**Annual Title I Meeting – October 14, 2020, 5:30pm (Virtual)**  
*We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parental involvement policy, the school wide plan, and the school-parent compact. Link will be shared on the school's website and in communication with parents.*

**School Council Meeting- November 16, 2020, 3:45pm**  
*This meeting is an opportunity for collaboration between staff, students, community members, and other stakeholders to make decisions on what best supports the school.*

**Coffee with the Counselor- February 17, 2021 9:00am**  
*Speak with counselors about test taking strategies*

**School Council Meeting- February 22, 2021, 3:45pm**  
*This meeting is an opportunity for collaboration between staff, students, community members, and other stakeholders to make decisions on what best supports the school.*

**Title I Input Meeting – March 26, 2020, 6:00 pm**  
*Parental input and revision of the school compact and policy.*

**School Council Meeting- April 19, 2021, 3:45pm**  
*This meeting is an opportunity for collaboration between staff, students, community members, and other stakeholders to make decisions on what best supports the school.*

**Coffee with the Counselor- April 21, 2021**  
*Speak with counselors about nontraditional options (at risk students), graduation updates, summer employment opportunities, college information*



## Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center in the Guidance Department 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 from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

## Parent and Family Engagement

ARC 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.

ARC is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Please call or email us if you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

(706) 737-7152



## The Academy of Richmond is Branching Out!

ARC 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 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 school-wide 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

ARC 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 Volunteer Team

- Yes, I am interested and wish to 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 meetings and updates.

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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