

# *Chattooga County Schools*

**Districtwide**

**Parent & Family Engagement Policy**  
**2023-2024**



The Chattooga County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, or disability in its programs, activities, or employment practices.

REVISED 05/12/2023

# *Chattooga County Schools*

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**2023-2024 TITLE I DISTRICT-WIDE**

**PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY**

## **PART I.**

### **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

This policy is being adopted in order to:

1. Support and secure an effective partnership among parents, legal guardians, schools and the community
2. Provide Chattooga County Schools students with a school environment that encourages high student academic achievement, and
3. Comply with the Title I, Part A requirements regarding the establishment of a Parent and Family Engagement Policy according to Section 1116, of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

The Chattooga County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- Chattooga County Schools 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 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). These programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116 of the ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1116 of the ESSA.
- Chattooga County Schools will incorporate this district-wide parent and family engagement policy into its district educational plan.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, Chattooga County 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 1116 of the ESSA 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 1116 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the Chattooga County

School District will submit any parent comments with the plan to the State Department of Education.

- The Chattooga County 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 parent and family engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The Chattooga County School District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parent and 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 and family members play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning;*

*(B) that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school;*

*(C) that parents and family members 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.*

- The Chattooga County School District will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the PIRC in the State.

## **PART II.**

### **DISTRICT PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY REQUIRED COMPONENTS**

1. The Chattooga County School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESSA:
  - District-wide stakeholders committee which consists of parent representatives from each school site
  - Conduct an annual meeting to review the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and solicit feedback
  - Provide information about the plan on the district website
2. The Chattooga County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116, Parent and Family, Title I, Part A of the ESSA:
  - School level improvement committees
  - School council meetings with parent membership
  - Input received from other parent meetings or written surveys

3. The Chattooga County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - Through distribution of written information and resources
  - Each school submits a budget to the Title I office based on identified needs stated in the school's Title I plan.
  - Reserve not less than one percent of Title I allocations to carry out parent involvement activities
  
4. The Chattooga County School System will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Part A with parent and family engagement strategies under the following other programs: Grand's Who Care, Family Connections, Parent Teacher Organization, The Georgia Department of Education and State-operated preschool programs by:
  - Encourage these organizations to provide the district and schools with relevant information regarding their parent and family engagement efforts.
  - Assisting with the transition process from preschool to kindergarten
  - Encourage parents to participate in the education of the child.
  
5. The Chattooga County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents and family members in parent and family engagement activities (with particular attention to parents and family members who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parent and family engagement policies.
  - Annually each school will collaboratively develop with input from Title I parent surveys to seek input on parent involvement activities in the school
  - Based on parent feedback each school will develop practices to address the issues identified
  - Each school's Title I committee, consisting of parents, community members, school administration, and staff meets to review and/or revise the School Parent Involvement Policy and Action Plan, and the School-Parent Compact
  
6. The Chattooga County School System will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement, 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, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –
- 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:
    1. Test taking tips and strategy for the Georgia Milestones.
    2. Information will be provided to parents explaining content standards and expectations of students’ achievement through literature, newsletters, and parent conferences
    3. Information will be provided to parents explaining academic assessments given throughout the year through literature, newsletters, and parent conferences
- 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 parent and family engagement, by:
- Workshops and meetings will be planned with the Title I Director and Parent Involvement Coordinators
  - Parent/teacher conferences will be utilized to share ways parents can assist their child
  - Family Reading Night/Family Math and Science Night
  - Parents are invited to participate in PTO, and school activities
  - Parent Portal for parents to view student information
- 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:
- Encouraging parents to participate in the education of their child by serving as school volunteers
  - Provide activities and workshops for parents to learn about their child’s development and other child rearing issues.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with Grand’s Who Care, Family Connections, Parent Teacher Organization, The Georgia Department of Education and State-operated preschool programs by:

- Workshops
- School meetings at variable times of the day for parent's convenience
- Orientation programs

E. The Chattooga County 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:

- Schools will send home monthly calendars or other announcements to inform parents of upcoming events
- Translation and alternate format of parent communication will be provided to the best extent possible
- Provide reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request or as the school system deems appropriate or necessary

### **PART III.**

### **DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

The Chattooga County School System will take the following actions to involve parents to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as following discretionary activities listed under section 1116 of the ESSA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and childcare costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement;
- establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.

#### **PART IV.**

The District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agendas, minutes, and sign-in sheets from the annual Title I parent meetings.

This policy was adopted by the Chattooga County School District on June 15, 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I Part A children before or during the first week of school.