



Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
Elbert County
School Year 2023-2024
06/19/2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Elbert County receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Elbert County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- 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(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format 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 ESSA, 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 be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED
LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Elbert County School District** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

The Federal Programs Director will ensure that all parents are invited to attend and participate in the reviewing and revising of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan. Invites are sent via hard copy by students and also posted on the district’s website. Parents/Guardians will be utilized to participate in district level meetings and involved in the development and review of the LEAs Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan, the District Comprehensive Needs Assessment and the District Improvement Plan. The Federal Programs Director, along with other directors and coordinators of Federal Programs will provide an overview of the process for each plan and present general information. Guiding questions will be utilized to obtain meaningful input from stakeholders. The LEAs Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the District CNA/DIP will be posted on the district’s website. A hard copy will be housed at the Central Office, parents and other stakeholders may request an electronic or hard copy. A flier will be sent home to parents in August informing them of where the plans can be located and how to provide suggestions., comments. or feedback.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Elbert County School District** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

The Federal Programs Director meets initially with Title I Principals and other stakeholders in July/August. This meeting is to provide Technical Assistance and present current and new material

regarding Title I requirements and discuss parent and family engagement needs. Technical assistance is scheduled three times per year throughout the school year and as needed. Technical assistance and Federal Program reminders are sent frequently via email and the Federal Programs Director shares information at District Leadership Team (DLT) meetings and with scheduled meetings with district leaders, school level leaders, and principals. An emphasis is placed on Parent and Family Engagement by the Federal Programs Director. Schools are required to plan trainings/workshops based on parent and family needs and collaborate with the Federal Programs Director. The Federal Programs Director provides guidance, resources, and support as needed.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Elbert County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

An evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement policy/plan will be conducted annually. Schools are reminded in the 2nd semester of the school year that the annual Title I Parent survey will be distributed via hard copy and posted on the district's website in early April. The survey remains open for a two-week period and principals are provided an update regarding the number of surveys that have been completed. If needed, the survey is extended so that the parents/family members have ample time to complete. The Federal Programs Director provides each school with hard copies to be sent home by students for parents to complete. Directions and an explanation are on the front of the survey for parents to either complete manually or electronically. Spanish versions are provided. Each school analyzes the data and provides a summary, based on guiding questions, to the Federal Programs Director. The data is used to inform school improvement processes.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Elbert County School District** will involve the parents and family members 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 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

The Federal Programs Director schedules a planning meeting in June for school level leaders, parents, and other stakeholders. All parents are invited to attend via multiple means. An overview is presented to inform stakeholders of current Parent and Family Engagement strategies and the

effectiveness. Guiding questions are utilized for school leaders to facilitate discussions with stakeholders in order to obtain meaningful input. The Federal Programs Director then works directly with school leaders to establish the most effective plan in utilizing funds. These plans are reflected in the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan and will be posted on the school's website. Copies of the plan can be obtained from the front office. Parents and other stakeholders may provide additional comments, suggestions, or input by emailing the principal or the Federal Programs Director. If needed, the parent may schedule a time to meet with the principal or the Federal Programs Director. This information will be sent home to parents by students and posted on the district and schools' websites.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Elbert County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: ***[Insert programs, such as: Head Start or other public preschool programs; transitioning to middle, high, postsecondary schools, or careers; and other programs]*** that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

District and school level leaders and teachers continue to seek methods to involve parents and families in school activities/workshops/training and events. The transition to Kindergarten and other levels is an important time. Pre-K teachers provide the opportunity in early May for parents/guardians to meet with them individually to share Kindergarten Readiness scores, set learning goals, and model instructional strategies for parents to better prepare their incoming Kindergartner. An incoming Kindergartner orientation for parents/guardians is scheduled for July to share general information regarding the facility and overall procedures. Pre-K students and parents will meet Kindergarten teachers at Open House and will be provided with classroom information. All other schools plan a parent orientation for transitions from school to school before the new school year begins. The Federal Programs Director communicates regularly with the Special Education Director and other Federal Program coordinators to effectively implement parent and family engagement strategies. The Elbert County Community Partnership also works with the school system to coordinate and integrate early learning strategies. The LAGA grant has provided many opportunities for early learning in the area of literacy.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Elbert County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

The Federal Programs Director meets initially with principals and other stakeholders in July/August to plan for Parent and Family Engagement strategies. Discussions are led by the Federal Programs Director and principals to review current practices and their effectiveness. Revisions are made and

schools plan their Parent and Family Engagement strategies based on needs identified in the district CNA. The plans are submitted to the Federal Programs Director along with a tentative budget. If approved, materials and resources are provided through Title I parental involvement funds; the Federal Programs Director provides additional guidance, resources, and support as needed. Parent information meetings and parent trainings/workshops provide topics that have been identified using the annual Parent Survey and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA). The Primary, Elementary, and Middle schools will continue implementing the Academic Family and School Collaboration (AFSC) meetings which is similar to the APTT model for the 2023-2024 school year to build parent capacity.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Elbert County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

The Federal Programs Director meets initially with principals, school level leaders, parents, and other stakeholders in July/August. Building capacity of school staff is an agenda item and information regarding this requirement is shared. Principals are provided with resources and links to establish plans to provide professional learning to educate teachers and staff in building ties between parents and schools. The importance of communication is emphasized and principals are required that it be an agenda item at the start of the school year with all staff and at the beginning of the second semester to reiterate its importance. Two additional professional learning/training opportunities are required to be conducted by the Title I Principal to build capacity of school staff. Technical assistance is provided to the school level leaders by the Federal Programs Director to share professional learning opportunities that are meaningful. Sign in sheets, agendas, and resources used are required to be retained as compliance documentation provided by the Title I Principal regarding building capacity of school staff. The Primary, Elementary, and Middle schools will continue implementing the Academic Family and School Collaboration (AFSC) meetings which are similar to the APTT model for the 2023-2024 school year to build parent capacity.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

NOTE TO THE LEA: *The LEA parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in meaningful consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school district to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) 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 family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents

- Maximize 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 family engagement
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

The Elbert County School District has identified several barriers such as childcare, transportation, and work schedules that impact parent and family participation in school activities, events, training, workshops, and school improvement initiatives. The district plans to utilize parental involvement funds to extend parent outreach by developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations, and businesses, including faith-based organizations. One strategy is to ensure that the schools are communicating with faith-based organizations to ensure that their members are aware of the parent and family activities. The district plans to utilize Parent Resource Coordinator(s) to specifically connect with parents, from all student subgroups. Title I Parental funds will also be used for childcare to transport parents to and from district and school level academic workshops and meetings as needed.