

Lincoln County Schools

Parent and Family Involvement Plan

2017–2018
Revised May, 2017
Reviewed July, 2017 by LCBOE
423 Metasville Road, GA 30817
lincolncountyschools.org
(706) 359-3742

What is Parent and Family Involvement?

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

- (A) That parent and family play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parent and family are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That parent and family 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 1118 of ESEA



About the Parent and Family Involvement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Lincoln County School System (LCSS) has developed this parent and family involvement plan that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe LCSS's commitment to engage parents and 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 parent and family involvement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plans, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116 ESSA, the LCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Jointly Developed

During our Comprehensive Needs Assessment process and school-based meetings, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parental involvement policy for the 2017-2018 school year. The district sent notifications to all parents informing them about these meetings and posted an announcement on the school district website. During each meeting, parents were given the opportunity to review and discuss the Comprehensive Needs Assessment process and the District Improvement Plan. Additionally, each Title I school used its VARIES parent input opportunities to review the district parental involvement policy before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parental involvement policy was incorporated into the Comprehensive Local Educational Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP) which was submitted to the state. Parents are encouraged to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy/plan at any time on the school or district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All feedback received is reviewed and considered for addition to the policy/plan.

The district parent and family involvement policy and plan are posted on district website, distributed during

the annual District-wide Parent Title I meeting, school meetings early in the school year, and made available in the Student-Parent Handbook for each school.

Strengthening Our School

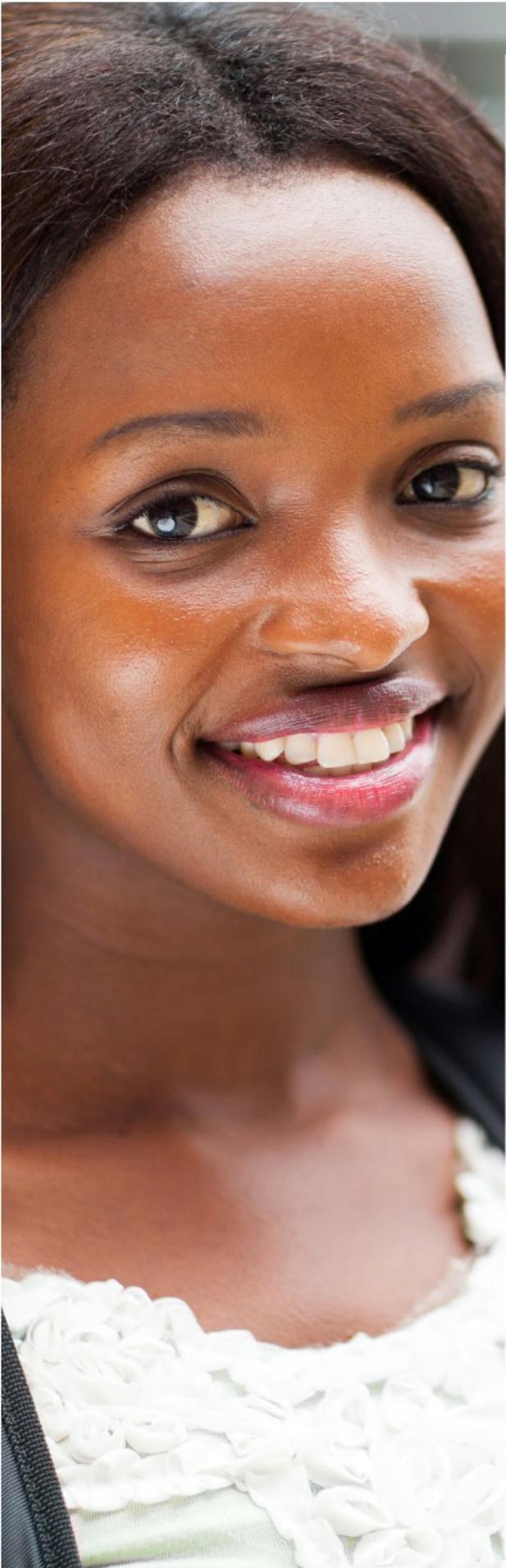
Each year, the district parent involvement coordinator (PIC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district to help improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the PIC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school PICs to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in May for principals and the PIC to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parental involvement activities and meetings for the upcoming school year.

Reservation of Funds

The LCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY18 (if equal or above \$500,000) to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy/plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the LCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement programs and activities as appropriate to required allocation amount. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual School Improvement meeting(s) in the last quarter of each school term for parents to provide suggestions how these parental involvement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-levels. Comment cards 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 parental involvement policy/plan/budget.





Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

District BOE Meetings (Monthly)

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Lincoln County School System as well as review and provide input into the district parental involvement policy and the Comprehensive Needs Assessment for the upcoming school year. Notices regarding these meetings will be given to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

District Parent & Family Engagement Workshops (Monthly)

During these workshops the PIC provides information on school improvement efforts, provide parent training activities to help their child at home, and gather parent input. Notification will be given via Infinite Campus, texting, websites, school announcements, and or newspaper.

School Improvement Forum ~ (April-May)

During these meetings, each Title I school will host a forum for parents to participate in roundtable discussions to review the parent and family involvement plan, the school's parent and family involvement activities as well as provide input on the parental involvement budget and parental involvement programs. Each Title I school will send a letter home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites. Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parental involvement programs may also be provided through the annual district parent survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parental involvement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

**Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit
<http://www.lincolncountyschools.org>
to review the documents and/or stop by the schools**

Building School and Parent Capacity

The LCSS will build the schools' and parents and families' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, family, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs.

The LCSS will work through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program.

The LCSS will provide parent workshops (monthly) for parents to gain knowledge about the state-adopted standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia's students including alternative forms of assessment.

The LCSS will also provide a page on the schools' website 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 for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish (as needed). To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources, the LCSS technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents as needed.

The LCSS will coordinate and integrate the district's parent and family involvement programs with the Head Start program and other state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on parent engagement activities.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parent/family programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will send home a districtwide calendar of events with information for parents at the beginning of the year. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school telephone systems, school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

The LCSS will host ongoing Professional Learning Community (PLC) during the school year for principals and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools.

The LCSS has established districtwide School Councils comprised of parent representatives to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council.

Parent and Family Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the LCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy and the parent and family involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement meetings.

Beginning in April-May, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In

addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum/meeting(s) to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.

The LCSS will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective parental involvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parental involvement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements established by ESSA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the District Office 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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
April-May
School Improvement Forum
April-May
Local school site
District Board Meetings
(Monthly)
County Board Office
School-based Parent Workshops
(Monthly)

For Schools

Welcoming Schools Training
August 2017
County Board Office
Principals-District Leadership
Meetings
(Monthly)
District-wide Parent and
Family Involvement Activities
(Monthly)

Review and Adoption

This districtwide parent and family involvement plan/policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel during the May 2017 CNA meeting. This plan was reviewed by the Lincoln County School District in July 2017 and will be in effect for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2017.

