

# Deerwood Academy

An International Baccalaureate Program

## Parent and Family Engagement Plan For Shared Student Success 2025-2026



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## What is Title I?

**Deerwood Academy** 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 families a written parent and family engagement plan.

## School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

### What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Deerwood Academy will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Deerwood Academy values the contributions and involvement of parents to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Deerwood Academy will support parent 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?

Deerwood Academy invited all parents to attend our Annual School Forum last spring to review and revise this parental involvement policy, as well as the School-wide Plan, our School-Parent Compact, and the Parental Involvement 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. Also, we distribute an annual Title I survey online and by mail to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parental involvement. Additionally, Parents can give feedback during several Parent meetings and activities during the school year including our Annual Title I Meeting.

### 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. Deerwood Academy will provide full opportunity for the participation of Parents with limited English, Parents with disabilities, and Parents of migratory children.

### Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the plan is included in the student handbook that is given to all students. As a reminder, we will mail the plan to all parents in August before the scheduled Open House event. Also, the plan will be posted on the school's website. Additionally, Parents can retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center.

## 2025 - 2026 Academic Achievement Goals

### APS District Goal

**APS Mission & Vision:** We are educating and empowering Atlanta's students to shape the future. We are Atlanta's Public School System.

### Deerwood Academy Goals

By May 2026, the percentage of students in grades 3-5 scoring proficient or above in ELA will increase from 24% to 29% as measured by the Georgia Milestones Assessment.

By December 2025, the percentage of students in grades K-5 meeting or exceeding their Fall to Winter growth goal in Reading will increase from 55% to 60% as measured by the NWEA MAP Assessment.

By May 2026, the percentage of students in grades 3-5 scoring proficient or above in Math will increase from 31% to 36% as measured by the Georgia Milestones Assessment.

By December 2025, the percentage of students in grades K-5 meeting or exceeding their Fall to Winter growth goal in Math will increase from 51% to 56% as measured by the NWEA MAP Assessment.

## School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Deerwood Academy and our families will develop a school-parent compact. It is an agreement that explains how parents, teachers and students work together to ensure that our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts are reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers during the School-wide Planning meeting and in school forums. Parents and teachers work diligently to create compacts. A copy of the school-parent compact brochure is distributed to every family.

## Let's Get Together!

**Deerwood Academy** will host several events to build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Our regularly scheduled events are listed below and future events added to our schedule will be posted on the school website and announced through flyers, emails, text messages, and voice messenger.

### Fall Semester 2025

- Open House
- Literacy Night
- Annual Title I Meeting
- Reflex Math
- Bring Your Parent to PE

### Spring Semester 2025

- Preparing for Georgia Milestones
- Math Family Game Night
- School-Parent Compact Review and Revision (Parent Input)
- School Wide Improvement Plan Meeting
- Academic Preview

### Recurring Events: Fall & Spring Semesters

- Parent Academy
- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Principal's Coffee

Connect digitally with Deerwood Academy on all social media platforms to receive updates on family engagement events! *Deerwood Academy will communicate with parents via the following methods: Instagram, X, Weekly Newsletter, flyers, school marquee, website, Class Dojo, and Robo calls.*

## School Community Team

Deerwood Academy invites **ALL** Parents to join the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Team to share ideas and ways to involve other Parents to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet during the school year, but Parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions during all activities and meetings as well as through our Parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the Title I Family Parent Involvement Committee, please contact the Family Engagement Specialist, **Dr. Tongelita Balom, School Business Manager** via email at **Tongelita.Balom@atlanta.k12.ga.us** or complete the interest form and leave it in the Main Office.

## Parent and Family Engagement

Deerwood Academy believes that parent engagement means the participation of parents in two-way communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school and home.
- Parents are full partners with the school and are included 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 Parent and Family Engagement plan.

## Parent Center Information

The Deerwood Academy Parent Center is open Monday – Friday from 7:30am – 3:00pm. .

Tongelita Balom, Ed.D  
Family Engagement Specialist  
Room 153

Please check the school's website, marquee, Class Dojo, and the parent center for additional academic opportunities for parents and families.

## Deerwood Academy is Branching Out!

*Deerwood Academy will take the following measures to promote and support parents 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 both English and Spanish, posted to the school's website and included in the school newsletters for all parents.
- ✓ Invite parents, community partners, school personnel and business partners in multiple ways (flyer, marquee announcements, robo calls etc.) the opportunity to make suggestions, review and revise in the development of the parental involvement plan a school-parent compact annually
- ✓ Conduct an annual Title I meeting, at a convenient time and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend, to inform them about the schools' Title I program, the nature of the program, the parents' requirements and the school parental involvement policy, the school-wide plan and the school-parent compact and welcome parents to make suggestions and provide feedback/input.
- ✓ Conduct staff development on parent and family engagement practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities. We will use phone messages, social media and flyers to communicate with our families.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials to parents at conferences, meetings and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's academic achievement.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities, such as phone messages, social media, and flyers.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff/parents on the importance of parental involvement.
- ✓ Provide necessary resources for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to assists their child's academic improvement (*content standards, academic achievement, academic assessments, alternate assessments, MAP, tutorial services and progress reports*).
- ✓ Involve stakeholders in the development/review of Title I documents that support academic success for students.
- ✓ Offer parent classes to help further enhance their various education backgrounds.
- ✓ Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for parental involvement activities by conducting quarterly surveys and responding to feedback.

## Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan 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.

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Please provide your contact information if you would like someone to contact you.

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

Telephone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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