ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT STATEMENT

SY 2022-2023 Revised June 28, 2022

About the Parent and Family Engagement Statement

The Atlanta Public Schools (APS) Title I Department's goal is to ensure that parents and families are full partners in their child's education. We understand that when families, schools, and communities work together in supporting learning, children tend to do better in school.

Title I is a federal program that provides funding to local school districts to help ensure that all children in district Title I schools meet state's high academic standards. Title I, Part A provides for substantive parent and family engagement at every level serving students in grades K-12. Section 1116 of the ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirement for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education.

What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and family engagement is 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:

- ❑ Assist in their child's learning;
- ❑ Remain actively involved in their child's education;
- ❑ Become full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees; and
- ❑ Carry out other activities, as described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Jointly Developed

This Parent and Family Engagement statement was jointly developed and agreed upon by parents of children being served in APS Title I schools. Parents and families were invited to participate and provide suggestions on the statement via the District Parent Feedback Meeting and the Title I Parent and Family Engagement survey link on the APS website. The statement will be in effect for the 2022-2023 academic school year and will be distributed at schools and on district and school websites.

Parents and families are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the statement at any time by written statement to their child's school or by accessing the survey at www.atlantapublicschools.us , go to Departments and Services, select Federal Programs, then click Title I.

We Value Collaboration

Strengthening Our Schools

The APS Title I Department in partnership with the APS Family Engagement Department provides a strategy of operation, technical support and professional development to all Title I schools on effective parent and family engagement practices and Title I requirements and regulations. Schools will be given the tools and resources to provide school level training to build the capacity of their staff, parents, and families and encouraged to participate in the Parent Engagement Webinar series offered by the Georgia Department of Education. The Title I Department will conduct regular school visits to monitor program implementation and to provide on-site technical support designed to enhance parent and family engagement at schools.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements, APS Title I Department partners with the APS English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) department to ensure information and reports are translated and communicated in a language parents can understand.

Reservation of Funds

APS will reserve greater than the required 1 percent from the total amount of the Title I funds allocated for the 2022-2023 school year to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this statement and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. APS will ask parents for feedback on using the 1 percent for family engagement activities by including a question in the parent survey for this statement. APS will distribute funds to schools based on student enrollment. Schools that have a student population of 400 students or less receive $6,000. Schools that have a student population of 401 to 699 receive $11,000, and schools with student population at 700 and above receive $15,000. APS will give clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing and adequately utilizing Title I funds to support their needs assessments and parent engagement programs. Each Title I school will host an annual input meeting for parents and families to provide feedback on how family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming school year.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

The APS Title I Department and APS Title I schools will conduct a review of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement statement to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey placed on the district website, www.atlantapublicschools.us. Feedback and input received from the Title I Parent and Community Meeting session will be used to improve the Parent and Family Engagement Plans. In addition to the district evaluation, Title I schools will also gather feedback on their Parent and Family Engagement Plans and programs through on going surveys and during the in-person annual Spring Title I Parent Input Meeting hosted at each school site.

Office of ESOL & World Languages
www.atlantapublicschools.us

Office of Family Engagement
www.atlantapublicschools.us

We Value Capacity Building

Building Capacity for School Staff

APS will host quarterly Title I professional development trainings for school staff and principals which will highlight Title I Part A, Parent and Family Engagement requirements, strategies to increase parent and family engagement, improve school-family communication, create a welcoming environment, improve two-way communication, and build ties with parents and communities. Training information shared may be redelivered to school level staff to further enhance the capacity of all staff in the school building. Training on how to effectively implement the APTT program will be supported by veteran schools and the Family Engagement staff. Teachers will receive training on proper implementation of the program.

Additionally, APS will encourage school staff to attend local and national professional conferences. Conferences provide an opportunity for schools to network with other districts and learn best practices in the field of parent and family engagement

APS will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, APS will implement a variety of districtwide and school-based initiatives.

Family Engagement Choice programs is one such initiative, which allows schools to select one of three family engagement models that best matches the distinctive needs of students, families, and the community. Family engagement models include: Removing Barriers, School Designed, and Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT). APTT is an evidence based program wherein teachers and families partner to address academic goals through at-home learning activities. Training and support of APTT is provided through the Georgia Department of education.

Building Capacity for Parents and Families

APS will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practical, in a language that parents can understand. APS will work with its Title I schools to help families understand:

- ❑ Academic expectations for student learning and progress;
- ❑ Specific information related to parent and family participation in the APTT;
- ❑ The State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments; and
- ❑ Use of the APS online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists.

In addition, APS will collaborate with federal and state funded preschool programs within the district and locally, inviting faculty to participate in meetings focused on parent and family engagement. In the spring, elementary schools will host Kindergarten Round-Up, Middle and High School Transition Nights, and College and Career Fairs to provide information to parents and families to help prepare them and their children for a smooth transition into the next stage of academic learning. Parents and families may obtain hard copies of these resources through their children's school.

We Value Community Input

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Parents, families, and community stakeholder input is essential to the Title I Part A, Parent and Family Engagement program. All parents and families of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to participate in the following opportunities to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students reach our student achievement goals.

Title I Parent and Community Meeting

Title I will host a parent input meeting in Spring to review and obtain input on the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the APS Parent and Family Engagement Statement. The meeting date and location will be announced at each APS school.

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