

Atlanta Public Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Statement

2018-2019
Revised August 13, 2018
130 Trinity Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303
www.atlantapublicschools.us

What is Family Engagement?



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 play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Statement

Our goal as the Title I Department within the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) system is to ensure parents 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 Every Student Succeeds Act ([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.



Jointly Developed

Atlanta Public Schools District (APS) solicits feedback and input of all parents and families whose children are being served in Title I schools. The Title I Department has a Parent and Family Engagement link on www.atlanta.k12.ga.us district webpage under the Department Section. Parents and families will find a survey link allowing them to provide feedback and input on this statement. This policy is developed jointly with the input of APS and Title I stakeholders. Parents and families will be invited attend the District Parent Feedback Meeting in the Spring of 2019.



Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

APS Title I Department and APS Title I schools will conduct a review of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey placed on www.atlanta.k12.ga.us district website. Feedback and input received from the Title I Parent and Community Workgroup 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.

Strengthening Our School

The Title I Department in partnership with the district's 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. In addition to the district level training opportunities, schools are encouraged to participate in the Parent Engagement Webinar series offered by the Georgia Department of Education. The Title I Department will also conduct regular school visits to monitor program implementation and to provide on-site technical support designed to enhance parent and family engagement at schools.

Reservation of Funds

APS reserves greater than the required 1 percent from the total amount of the Title I funds allocated for the 2018-2019 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 asks parents for feedback on using the 1 percent for family engagement activities by including a question in the parent survey for this statement. APS distributes funds to schools based on student enrollment. Schools that have 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 appropriately to support needs assessments and parent engagement programs.



Building Capacity

APS will build the schools', parent and families' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. The goal is to support partnerships among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

Build Capacity for Schools includes-

The district will host quarterly Title I professional training for schools and principals (or designee). During the trainings, Title I Part A, Parent and Family Engagement requirements are shared in addition to 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. The 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 [Academic Parent Teacher Team \(APTT\)](#) program will be supported by veteran schools and the Family Engagement staff. Teachers will receive training on proper implementation of the program. APTT is an evidence-based family engagement model that builds partnerships with parents.

Encourage schools to send a representative to the local and national professional conferences. Conferences provides an opportunity for schools to network with other districts and learn best practices in the field of parent and family engagement.

Build Capacity of Parents and Families includes-

Provide parents with academic resources to support learning at home. The Title I Department will provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic standards, as well as, information about the Title I program and Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT). This information will be shared via the district's Title I Parent and website and through our social media page. Parents will also have an opportunity to learn more about the standards and obtain additional resources through the school parent liaison and /or parent resource center.

For participating schools, parents will participate in the APTT program. APTT is an evidence-based family engagement model that builds partnerships with parents and set academic goals for students that can be addressed and achieved through at-home learning activities and strategies. The APTT program is currently being implemented at 11 of our Title I schools. As a note, there are two other options available in the Family Engagement Choice programs – Removing Barriers and School Designed that increase parent, student, and school dialogue on academic success and instructional supports.

Atlanta Public School will coordinate and 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 engaging parents/families in touring schools and sharing information with parents and families for a smooth transition into kindergarten.

Provide parents with information in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practical, in a language that parents can understand.



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 Workgroup

Title I is hosting a workgroup session to help complete the district wide Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and the district Parent and Family Engagement Statement.

Location: To be announced

Date: Spring 2019

Unable to attend the in-person sessions? Please visit www.atlanta.k12.ga.us, go to the Department link and click on the Title I link to provide feedback and input

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements, the district partners with ESOL department to ensure information and reports are translated and communicated in a language parents can understand.

Mark Your Calendars

This districtwide statement has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by sign-in sheet and feedback provided during the districtwide Parent and Community Workgroup meeting.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

School-Parent Compact

July 27-October 31, 2018

** Compacts will be distributed at local schools.*

Parent & Family Engagement Policies

July 27-October 31, 2018

** Policies will be distributed at local schools.*

Annual Title I Parent Meeting

July 27-October 31, 2018

**Contact school regarding specific date*

Spring Title I Parent Input Meeting

March 1-May 8, 2019

**Contact school regarding specific date*

