



Atlanta Public Schools

Title I Parental Involvement Statement

2015 – 2016

What is Parental Involvement?

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

- (a) The 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 the 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 the ESEA.

Education, U. D. (2005, June 21). Title I - Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged. Retrieved from Ed.gov: <http://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html>

About the Parental Involvement Statement

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 the state's high academic standards. Title I, Part A, Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Act (ESEA) of 1965 provides supplemental funding and requires that this funding be used to implement parental involvement programs in Title I schools. The purpose of the district parental involvement statement is to outline the districts' plans, strategies, and resources to assist parents in engaging in the education of their child and to build parents' capacity in its Title I schools.

The statement describes our commitment to engage families in the education of their children and describes the Atlanta Public School's (APS) commitment to implementing a strong Family Engagement Program that supports the district's goal of 'Every Student being College and Career Ready'. Title I provides parental involvement programming at all levels serving students in grades K-12. APS understand that when families, schools, and communities work together in supporting learning, children tend to do better in school.

In conjunction with Section 1118, the APS will work with all Title I schools to ensure that all required school-level parental involvement programs and activities meet the federal requirements of Title I, Part A - Section 1118 Parental Involvement in addition to State Title I, Part A - Section 1118 requirements and that each Title I school has a current Parent Involvement Policy and School-Home Compact designed specifically to meet the needs of each Title I school.

Jointly Developed

During our Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Parent Input meeting in August 2015, parents and community stakeholders are invited to provide input and feedback on the district Parental Involvement Statement for 2015-2016 school year. The district announced and invited families and community stakeholders to this meeting by handing out flyers and website announcements posted on the district webpage as well as the department (Student Services) websites. During this meeting parents are offered an opportunity to provide input and feedback on the CLIP. Families

and community stakeholders unable to attend the meetings in person have an opportunity to participate via an online format, allowing them time to review the documents and submit input and feedback electronically.

Once final edits are complete, the district parental involvement statement will be incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. Families and community stakeholders are welcomed to submit feedback at any time throughout the year via the district website or by submitting comments to your child's school. All feedback and input received will be used in consideration when updating the proceeding year's statement. The 2015 Atlanta Public Schools Parental Involvement Statement is posted on the district website and will be distributed to all Title I families by October 31, 2015. Copies of the district statement will be made available in schools' Parent Resource Center.

Reservation of Funds

APS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY16 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this statement and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. APS will equally distribute 95 percent of the 1 percent to each Title I school. During the Title I Summit and throughout the year, APS will give clear guidance and communications in the appropriate use of funds to address and support the needs assessment and parent communication for each Title I school.

In the fall, each Title I school will host an Annual Title I Parent Meeting to share Title I information related to their school. During this time, schools will share the plan for the reservation of Title I funds for Parental Involvement. In the spring, each Title I school will offer parents an opportunity to provide feedback on the Title I Parent Involvement program. Schools will host meetings and opportunities for parents to submit feedback to be considered for the upcoming school year.

Strengthening Our Schools

The district Family Engagement Team is comprised of the Family Engagement Manager and Nine (9) Family Academic Engagement Specialists (FAES). The Family Engagement team works with schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being met and that parental involvement strategies and activities are being implemented as mandated by federal law. Parent Liaisons serve as a link between schools and parents, and community stakeholders to empower parents to play an active role in the education of their students.

Parent Liaisons participate in regular technical assistance meeting and professional development opportunities with their assigned Family Academic Engagement Specialist. Through frequent school visits and consistent communication, the FAES are able to ensure that school Parental Involvement activities meets federal and state compliance requirements. FAES shares with Parent Liaisons the latest program updates from the U.S. Department of Education and encourages utilizing the multitude of resources that the Georgia State Department of Education offers. Parent Liaisons in turn educate principals, teachers, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, on how to communicate and work effectively with parents as equal partners through training such as, at staff meetings and-parent center workshops. Parent Liaisons also work with parents to implement and coordinate programs and build ties between parents and the schools. In the absence of a Parent Liaisons in a school, the school principal will designate a staff member to be in charge of implementing the Parental Involvement program.

During the summer, the district will convene a Title I Principals' Summit for school principals and school Title I contacts. During this time, the Title I Part A, Parental Involvement requirements are reviewed and explained. The Family Engagement Team shares best practices with summit participants on how to effectively engage families and understanding of state mandates that include revision and review of previous years' documentation and deadline for distributions to families. On-going technical support is provided to schools throughout the year to ensure schools meet parental involvement requirements and remain in compliance of federal and state laws and guidance.

APS recognizes the importance of working in partnership with students, parents, and community. Administrators, faculty, and staff collaborate with businesses and community-based organizations to provide resources for parents and students.

Opportunities for Parent Feedback

Family and community stakeholder input is essential to the Title I Part A, Parental Involvement program. The district offers all parents of Title I students the opportunity to share their ideas and suggestions on increasing student academic achievement. Please visit the Title I Family Engagement website <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/46982> for program updates and opportunities to provide feedback.

During the spring, each Title I school will survey parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs offered at that school. Feedback opportunities will be provided to families in multiple ways via school and district website, Facebook, twitter and via paper copy sent home with the student. The district will use the feedback as appropriate, to improve program effectiveness.

August 25, 2015 Districtwide Title I Parent Feedback Meeting- All parents invited to hear the latest updates and provide input into the districtwide parental involvement statement and Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the 2015-2016 school year.

September 22, 2015 Districtwide Title I Parent Feedback Opportunity- All parents are invited to provide feedback and input on the new/revised Districtwide Parental Involvement Statement. This meeting is designed in the café style (small table discussion) format, allowing parents to provide feedback without the formal meeting setting.

Parents are notified of the meeting(s) in multiple ways, district website posting, flyers, and social media. The district and the Title I schools will offer various opportunities throughout the year to gather feedback and input from families and community stakeholders. Please visit the district's Title I Family Engagement website for district level opportunities.

Building School and Parent Capacity

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support Title I schools, APS will build the parents' and schools' capacity for strong parental involvement through the following districtwide opportunities.

1. Annually parents are notified of the academic status of Title I schools. Parents of students attending Title I schools identified as Priority and Focus receive a written explanation regarding the school's status and are advised of their parent rights under ESEA. These parents have the right to provide input regarding the development of the school's Flexible Learning Program (FLP). Additionally, each school's parents, administration and faculty, and other school district personnel assist the school in defining and attaining academic goals. Information about Flexible Learning Programs is made available
2. The district will work through the Title I schools to ensure parents are provided with an opportunity to receive information and understanding on the state academic standards and district academic standards and expectations. The dates and times for these opportunities will be shared on the Title I website and shared through the Title I Family Engagement newsletter.
3. The district will maintain an up-to-date website to include resources for families to promote at home learning with their child. The district provides a Family Engagement webpage, a monthly Title I Family Engagement Newsletter that contains resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home. Parents with limited access to the internet may obtain this information by contacting their school Parent Liaison.
4. Each year the district will host a Title I Summit for school principals and Title I contacts during the summer, or all Title I school principals and Title I contacts. During this time, the Title I Part A, Parental Involvement requirements are shared in addition to strategies to increase parental engagement, improve school-family communication, creating a welcoming environment, improving two-way communication, and building ties with parents and communities. Throughout the year, Parent Liaisons and Title I contacts are invited to attend

- trainings/professional development to obtain additional skills and best practices to take back to their school to redeliver during staff meetings or during parent workshops to build the capacity of school staff and parents.
5. The district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement activities with the early childhood program, Bright from the Start, and other preschool programs in the county. During November, Parent Engagement Month, families are invited to join the activities to receive resources they can use at home with their young children in preparation for school.
 6. The district will ensure information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings and activities are available in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practical, in a language that parents can understand. The district will also utilize the district Title I Family newsletter, social media outlets, and district webpage to share information.
 7. Members of a team will receive training for the implementation of the Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) at Beecher Hills Elementary and the district will ensure at minimum 1 school will be trained in APTT starting in 2016. APTT is a research based model for parent capacity building.

Parental Involvement Evaluation

Every year, Atlanta Public Schools' Title I program will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parental Involvement Statement and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual survey.

During the Spring 2016, each Title I school will survey their parents via surveys sent home with students and online (where available) for families to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs. Surveys will be posted on the district and school webpages for parents to complete.

The district will use the results of the surveys to improve program effectiveness and remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise (if necessary) the district parental involvement plan.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements, the District Parental Involvement Statement will communicate and collaborate with the ESOL department 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.

Adoption

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 sheets and feedback provided online and during meetings.

This statement was adopted by the Atlanta Public Schools on October 7, 2015 and will be in effect for the 2015-2016 school year. The district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2015.