

# Jackson County School District

## Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2020-2021  
Revised 8/14/20  
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### 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 Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Jackson County School District (JCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe JCSS's commitment to engage 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 important family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The JCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school parent compact.

## Jointly Developed

During the annual Title I Stakeholders meeting in May, parent representatives were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Each Title I school hosted a spring/summer meeting in which all parents were invited to give input and/ or complete a survey to provide input on individual school Comprehensive Needs Assessment and School Improvement Plans, (SIP) and the Parent and Family Engagement Plan as well as the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan. \*Meeting opportunities may vary due to COVID-19. Title I schools utilize the Parent Teacher Organization to gather feedback and input on School Improvement Plans and District and School Parent and Family Engagement Plans. The district sent an email to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website.

During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) as well as the district parent and family engagement plan.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July was included with the plan for this year.



## Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

## Reservation of Funds

The JCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2020-2021 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the JCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school hosted an annual School Improvement Forum in May for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. An annual evaluation is conducted with district Title I staff, Title I school staff and families each spring to evaluate the effectiveness of the district and school's parent involvement program. Parent input surveys are given each spring which also provides parents an opportunity to give suggestions for the next year's budget. Minutes and other documentation from these meetings are analyzed by the district and school staff to determine areas of need for the up-coming school year and consider changes to the parental involvement programs and budgets.

*“At the end of the day the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”*

*--Jane D. Hull*

# Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation



Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners 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 two 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.

## **State of the District Meeting~ July/August-2020**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Jackson County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2020-2021 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

## **School Improvement Forums~ July/August-2020**

During this month, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement plans as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send a letter home notifying parents about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites and posted on other social media.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

**Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit <http://www.jacksonschoolsga.org> to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.**



*"Parent involvement in education is like the frosting on a cupcake, it makes it complete and oh so sweet."*

*--Unknown*

# Building Capacity

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

***Of Parents*** - The JCSS will work as a district and 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. Title I schools will provide parents with opportunities to attend family engagement events and activities throughout the school year concerning Title I program requirements, Georgia Standards of Excellence, MAP, using technology for learning in a virtual environment, and various academic content workshops that aim at providing parents with training and materials to help their children with reinforcing learning at home. Each individual Title I school will share dates and times for these family engagement nights by sending home invites as well as posting this information on the website, text messages, and other social media.

The JCSS will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent Institute booklets, study guides, and practice assessments to help parents work with their children at home in the areas of math and reading. 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. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), Title I schools will host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

The JCSS will establish a district wide Parent and Family Engagement Council comprised of two parent representatives from each Title I school's Parent Teacher Organization to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council, as well. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting recordings of council and other district meetings on the website and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

The JCSS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend district parent family engagement meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Registration so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The JCSS will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

***Of School Staff*** - The district Family Engagement Coordinator will provide all Title I school administrators and school level family engagement coordinators with trainings and technical assistance throughout the school year related to the value of family and school partnerships, increasing family engagement, improving school-family communication, creating welcoming environments, how to respond to parent requests and any additional support needed for an effective family engagement program. School level Family Engagement Coordinators will redeliver trainings for staff members at Title I schools to build staff capacity for partnering with families. Federal Programs Director will conduct visits to each Title I school to review and discuss family engagement requirements and initiatives.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize Infinite Campus Messenger System, district and school websites, local newspaper and other school message systems to post information for parents.

# Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the JCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and the effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Each Title I school will send home a link to the survey, or a paper copy when applicable, for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. The link to this survey will also be posted on the district and school website for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The JCSS will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plans.



## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services 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 parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting. This plan was adopted by the Jackson County School District on August 30, 2020 and will be in effect for the 2020-2021 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2020.