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) 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 1118 of the ESEA.

About the Parental Involvement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Jackson County School System (JCSS) has developed this parental involvement policy that establishes the district’s expectations for parental involvement 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 substantive parental involvement 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 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children’s education. Consistent with Section 1118, the JCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
Jointly Developed

All parents are invited to attend the annual Title I Stakeholder’s meeting held in May. This meeting is held to offer parents an opportunity to provide input and share ideas on ways to improve the Parent Involvement Policy for the 2016-2017 school year. The district sent a letter to all parents informing them about this meeting. The meeting is also advertised on all of the local school websites as well as on the district website. By attending the Title I Stakeholder’s meeting, all parents of students attending Title I schools, including parents of homeless, migrant, neglected and delinquent children, and parents whose children are served by Title I and attending private schools, are given the opportunity to provide input and to participate in the joint-development of Jackson County’s Parent Involvement Policy. During this meeting parents also review, discuss and offer input on the Comprehensive Local Education Agency (LEA) Improvement Plan, referred to as the CLIP.

Parent input from the local school Title I Stakeholder’s meeting, the District Title I Parent Advisory meetings, and the Title I Annual Parent Survey is used to revise the district’s Parent Involvement Policy. Upon final revision, the district’s Parent Involvement Policy is incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. Parents may submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time by submitting written comments to their child’s school or through the Jackson County School System website. All feedback is considered when revising the Parent Involvement Policy for the current school year. The Jackson County School System’s Parent Involvement Policy is posted on the district and Title I school websites, reviewed during the Title I Annual Parent Meetings held at the local schools, distributed to all parents through the Title I Parent Handbook, and made available in all Title I schools’ Parent Resource Rooms.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district parent involvement coordinator (PIC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district PIC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools’ principals and school PICs 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 FY17 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. Furthermore, the JCSS will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual Stakeholder’s Input Meeting in May for parents to provide suggestions on how these parental involvements funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the parental involvement budget.
Building School and Parent Capacity

The Jackson County School System (JCSS) will build schools’ and parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement in order to ensure effective engagement of families. In addition, Jackson County will support a partnership among the Title schools, parents and the community to improve the academic achievement of students through districtwide activities.

Each Jackson County Title I school will have a Parent Resource Room where materials for check-out are available to parents. The local school will designate a Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) who will facilitate activities for parents to become engaged in the learning process and help bridge home and school learning. Title I schools provide parents many opportunities to attend academic content workshops and school wide events to learn to use technology, as well as other strategies to support their child’s learning at home. Parent/family meeting and workshop days, times, and locations vary to accommodate parents’ schedules and to maximize parent participation. Childcare and interpreters are provided for these events whenever possible. Each Title I school will share dates and times for these opportunities by sending home invitations, posting information on the school’s website and by other means that work best for the local school.

The Jackson County School System will conduct three trainings during the school year for principals and school PICs to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district parent involvement coordinator will also provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. The Jackson County School System will host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

The Jackson County School system will 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. The Jackson County School System will work alongside each Title I school to provide opportunities for parents to gain knowledge about the state-adopted standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. Parents will have on-going opportunities to learn how to monitor their child’s academic progress as well as how to work with educators.

Jackson County School System and local Title I schools invite and encourage all parents of children participating in Title I programs to attend local school and district level Title I meetings to receive important information and offer feedback regarding the Title I program in the district and in local schools. To ensure information related to district, school, and parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, each Title I school will send home a districtwide calendar of events with information for parents at the beginning of the year. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parents’ native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. JCSS maintains continuous communication with parents through multiple media sources, including JCSS and local school websites, local media, social media outlets, community and business partners, parent-teacher conferences, local school parent workshops and events, school newsletters, email, phone, text blasts, signs, posters, and the local school Parent Involvement documents including text blasts, signs, posters, and the local school Parent Involvement documents including the Parent Involvement Policy, the School-Parent Compact, and the Family Engagement Calendar of Events.
The Jackson County School System will coordinate and integrate the district’s parental involvement programs with the Head Start program and Georgia Pre-K. To fully support school readiness and a successful kindergarten transition, JCSS also collaborates with other state funded preschool programs as well as private early learning centers. JCSS promotes and advertises kindergarten registration in local newspapers and media platforms. The district provides information regarding kindergarten registration information on the JCSS and local school websites.

Title I schools will receive timely communication, school visits for compliance monitoring, and resources from the district to help improve and strengthen family engagement practices. The Title I Director will conduct three trainings during the school year for principals and school PICs to learn and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The district parent involvement coordinator will also provide opportunities for visits to each Title I school to review and discuss parental involvement requirements and initiatives. The Jackson County School System will host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

The Jackson County School System has established a districtwide Parent Advisory council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school’s Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council at the school-level. The district will 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 parents.
Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents 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.

Parent Survey ~ April 10 – 28, 2017
During the month of April, parents of students enrolled at any Title I school will be asked to complete an annual Parent Survey. The survey will contain questions related to the parental involvement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments. The purpose of this survey is to provide the Jackson County School District’s Title I Program staff with valuable feedback from parents of students enrolled in a Title I school. The feedback is also used by individual schools to assist in their school improvement planning efforts. Parents input and opinion is valued, appreciated and important to continued school improvement. Surveys will be available in electronic form or in hard copy form available in the office of each Title I school.

Stakeholder’s Input Meeting ~ May 2017
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 parental involvement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2017-18 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.
Parental Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the Jackson County School System will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the Stakeholder Input Meetings.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the Stakeholder Input Meeting to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.

The Jackson County School System will use the findings from the school Stakeholder Input Meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective parental involvement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parental involvement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements established by Section 1118 of the ESEA, the district parent involvement 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 parental involvement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual Stakeholder Input Meeting.

This policy was adopted by the Jackson County School System on July 26, 2016 and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 19, 2016.
For Parents

Multicultural Community Night
September 15, 2016 @ 6:30 p.m.
Jackson County Comprehensive High School

Grandparent Breakfast
September 29, 2016 @ 7:30 a.m.
Jackson EMC

District Parent Advisory Council Meetings
September 8, 2016
January 5, 2017
March 9, 2017

“Your Kid’s Business, is Your Business” (A Technology Safety Event)
January 26, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.
Jackson EMC

Annual Parent Survey
April 10-28, 2017

School Stakeholder Input Meeting
May 2017 –
Local school site

District Stakeholder Input Meeting
May 2017 –
County Board Office

For Schools

Annual Title I Meeting
Refer to school calendar
Local school site

School PIC Meetings
Monthly

Revised August 2016