

## **Clay County Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

### **PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

The Clay County Board of Education agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Clay County School District will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1116, the Clay County School District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with ESEA section 1116(d).
- Clay County Schools will incorporate this district wide parent and family engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Clay County School District and its schools will provide full opportunities for the informed participation of parent and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children) including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents and family members of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- Clay County Schools will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and engagement policy is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The Clay County School District will use funds reserved under subparagraph (A) to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the parent and family engagement policy, including not less than 1 of the following:
  - a. Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for local educational agency and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.
  - b. Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.

- c. Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.
- d. Collaborating, or providing sub grants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community- based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement.
- e. Engaging in other activities/strategies that the local educational agency determines are appropriate and consistent with our parent and family engagement policy.
- The Clay County School District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental and family engagement, and expects that its schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition: Parental
- and 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 and family members play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
  - b. that parents and family members are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
  - c. that parents and family members 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.

**PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Clay County School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the joint development of its district wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA: *The Clay County Schools Planning Committee will develop the district written parental and family engagement policy jointly with input from parents and the Director of Federal Programs.*
2. The Clay County School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in the development of support and improvement plans under section 1111(d) of the ESEA: *The Clay County School District Planning Committee, jointly with the Director of Federal Programs, will review and improve the district written parental and family engagement policy yearly prior to distribution of the policy to parents and family members in the fall. Parents and family members will also participate in decision making through the Parent Advisory Committee and serving on Local School Improvement Councils.*
3. The Clay County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - *Training to administrators in the development of the written school parental and family engagement policy.*

- *Technical assistance in the development of the school written parental and family engagement policy.*
- *Funding for Title I schools (90% of the 1% reservation of Title I funds) to support the development and distribution of the school parental and family engagement policy in addition to parental and family engagement activities included in the school parental and family engagement policy and/or strategic plan.*

4. The Clay County School District will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies in Title I, Part A with parent and family engagement strategies under the following other Federal, State, and local programs: *Where appropriate, the district will coordinate and integrate parental and family engagement strategies and opportunities at schools which are linked to the following: preschool programs; Special education programs; ESL/Bilingual programs; Reading programs; After school and Summer school program, etc.*

5. The Clay County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents/family in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teacher; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The Clay County School District will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental/family involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents and family members) its parent and family engagement policies.

*The Clay County School District will survey the parents and family members of students to evaluate the effectiveness of the program including (but not limited to) parental and family engagement strategies and barriers to greater participation. This survey will be offered in the spring and will be disaggregated in the comprehensive needs assessment process to assist in the development of the county and school strategic plan.*

6. The Clay County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental and family involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, family members and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

A. The Clay County School District will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph—

- the challenging State academic standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I, Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

*Clay County Schools will offer various activities, as appropriate, to ensure success such as parent workshops, trainings and conferences, Parent Nights, Lunch and Learns, Open House, parent newsletters, etc.*

- B. The Clay County School District will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, LiveGrades training, Digital Library and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy and internet safety, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement).
- C. The Clay County School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents and family members as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and family members, and in how to implement and coordinate parent and family engagement programs and build ties between parents/family members and schools, by:
- *Hosting Parent/Family Education Nights that may focus on reading, writing or Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)*
  - *Books and educational materials sent home for families to utilize with their child*
  - *Parent Teacher Association/Organization sponsored activities*
  - *Clothes closets*
  - *Angel Tree donations*
  - *Community sponsored backpack food programs*
  - *Sarah the School Messenger and district/school newsletters to communicate with families.*
- D. The Clay County School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by offering programs such as:
- *Family Literacy Programs*
  - *Parent and family member volunteer programs*
  - *Parent Booster Organizations*
  - *Parents as Teachers Program (PAT)*
  - *GED programs*
  - *Adult Vocational Classes and various activities and programs for families of students attending the after-school program.*
- E. The Clay County School District will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent/family programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents and family members of participating children in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

**NOTE:** The Clay County School District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents and families, chooses to undertake to build parents'/families' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1116(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- providing necessary literacy training for parents/family from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.

- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents/family members.
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting virtual conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental/family involvement.
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental/family engagement activities; and
- providing such other reasonable support for parental/family engagement activities under section 1116 as parents may request.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### **PART IV. ADOPTION**

This Clay County School District-wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agendas and sign in sheets from the Parent Advisory Council and LSIC meetings as well as comments received by Clay County Schools that specifically address this policy. This policy was adopted by the Clay County School District on June 26, 2023 and will be in effect for the period of one year. The Clay County School District will distribute this policy to all parents and family members of participating Title I, Part A children on or before the first day of school for the 2023-2024 school year or first day of enrollment in Clay County Schools. A copy of this policy is available on our website at [www.claycountyschools.org](http://www.claycountyschools.org). The policy is reviewed annually by the Clay County Schools Parent Advisory Council and the Clay County Board of Education. All parents are invited to give comments and make suggestions regarding the policy so that parent involvement opportunities and activities are effective and successful in helping students do the very best they can in school. Questions and comments about the policy may be directed to the CCS Title I Director. Thank you for your time and attention.

