



PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN

2015-16 School Year

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ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Pickens County Board of Education recognizes that student academic success is directly linked, by research, to the quantity and quality of parental involvement. In an effort to provide an environment in which all Pickens County students have maximum opportunities to achieve their academic goals, Pickens County Schools will build capacity for parent involvement by working collaboratively with the parents and community. The goals of this collaboration will be to increase student academic performance and improve the quality of our schools by involving parents and community members in supporting school programs, expanding quality learning opportunities, reducing or removing barriers to participation, communicating information, and creating and maintaining a relevant parent involvement plan which is in compliance with the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965(ESEA)*.

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Pickens County Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
3. The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement plan into its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
5. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Georgia Department of Education.
6. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

7. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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 at school;
- 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.

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

1. Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

At the beginning of the year send a letter home, in the *Title I Packet*, with a copy of the District Parent Involvement Plan asking for parent input. Hold a PCPAC meeting to which all parents are invited, in a timely manner, asking for parent input. Have copies of the Parent Involvement Plan in the Parent Resource Center(s) at each school with feedback forms. Ask for input at our School Advisory Council meetings. (All meetings are open, and the public is invited to attend.)

2. Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

Parents are encouraged to attend the PCPAC meetings (Pickens County Parent Action Committee) where our Districtwide Parent Involvement Plan, school level Parent Involvement Plans, School Improvement Plans, Equity Plan, Title I Program Survey, are all reviewed as well as how the schools' Title I funds are spent.

3. Pickens County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

The district will involve school-level personnel and administrators in all parent meetings. All feedback from meetings and survey results will be shared with school-level administrators with the intent they share the information in their buildings. A newsletter will be sent to all school-level personnel with results from parents saying what they feel would be more effective in communication and what information they need to help with their students.

4. Pickens County will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start and State-operated preschool programs, by:

Coordinating Kindergarten Round Up with Head Start and local daycare facilities that house State-operated preschools and the three Pre-K classes at Hill City Elementary School.

5. Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental engagement activities (with particular attention to support parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parental involvement plans.

A survey will be sent to all parents of Title I students, in a language they can understand, asking the effectiveness of our Title I programs. The System Parent Involvement Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the survey of all parents. We will ask parents to review and make suggestions on how the survey is worded so we will be provided with effective answers. This will be completed at the PCPAC meetings, as well as Title I Meetings and School Advisory Council meetings (all meetings are open to the public).

6. Pickens County Schools will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - a. The 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 State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators which may include math and science nights, curriculum nights, book fairs, open house, writers workshops, Read Across America, materials sent home on how to access their child's grades and attendance, newsletters sent home informing parents of their rights and where to find information on state standards, Title I Packet sent home in a timely manner at the beginning of the year with all Title I documents and where to find information on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), the State and Federal Department of Education websites, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Handouts will be available at Title I meetings to assist parents in helping their student achieve academically.
 - b. With the assistance of its schools, the school district will, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement through such programs as literacy and technology training as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

Math and science nights, curriculum nights, book fairs, open house, writers workshops, Read Across America, materials sent home on how to access their child's grades and attendance, newsletters sent home informing parents of their rights and where to find information on state standards, Title I Packet sent home in a timely manner at the beginning of the year with all Title I documents and where to find information on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), the State and Federal Department of Education websites, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Handouts will be available at Title I meetings to assist parents in helping their student achieve academically.
 - c. With the assistance of its schools and parents, the school district will, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

A survey will be sent home with open-ended questions asking how we can more effectively communicate with and assist parents. Those responses are tallied, typed, and distributed to the administration in the schools and a newsletter is created encompassing those results and distributed electronically to the staff at each school.
 - d. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool and other

programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Coordinating Kindergarten Round-Up with Head Start and local daycare facilities that house State-operated preschool, and the three Preschool classes at Hill City Elementary School.

- e. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school-and-parent programs, meetings, and other activities, are sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Newsletters, Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, Survey, and other documents will be translated (to the extent practical). Translators will be available at Open House and Title I meetings (to the extent practical).

- f. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

NOTE: The Districtwide Parental Involvement Plan may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' 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 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Maximizing parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times; and
- Establishing a district-wide Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A Programs.