

Towns County Schools
Title I Parent Involvement Policy
2014 - 2015

Towns County Schools agree to implement the following statutory requirements:

- 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.
- 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
- The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- 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.
- 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 State Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 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.
- 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.*

1. Towns County Schools will take the following action to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - a. Towns County Schools Parent Advisory Committee will meet twice annually (once each semester) to jointly develop and review Towns County Schools Title I Parent Involvement Policy
 - b. The Committee will be composed of parents and administrators from Towns County Schools receiving Title I funds.
2. Towns County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - a. School council meetings with parent membership
 - b. Input received from parent meetings and surveys
 - c. Review and provide feedback on the Comprehensive Improvement Plan and parent survey
3. Towns 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:
 - a. Training school staff and parents in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs
4. Towns County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start, Towns County Pre-K program

5. Towns 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 policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
 - a. Each Title I School will survey its parent population at least annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the parent involvement program
 - b. Parents are given the opportunity to take the survey in a written or online format
 - c. Each school's Title I Committee, consisting of parents, school administration and staff, meets to review and revise the School Parent Improvement Policy and School – Parent Compact

6. Towns 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 involved, 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 Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS),
 - the College Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI),
 - the Georgia Milestones Tests
 - the requirements of Title I Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress through PowerSchool, and
 - how to work with educators:

 - B. The 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, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by holding Parent University classes in the following areas:
 - Grade Level Expectations
 - How to Study
 - How to Prepare for the Georgia Milestones Tests

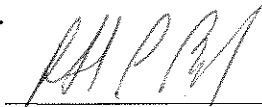
- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by providing professional development on:
- Sending home newsletters
 - Sending home graded work
 - Holding parent – teacher conferences
 - Working with parents for student success
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and public preschool 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:
- Workshops
 - School Meetings at different times of the day for parent convenience
 - Orientation to school
- E. The school district will ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities, is 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.
- F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

Towns County Schools 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:

- 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 from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;

- 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;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home 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 involvement;
- establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and

This policy was adopted by Towns County Schools on _____ and will be in effect for the period of one year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before .



(Signature of Authorized Official)
12/19/14

(Date)