

District Accountability System Goal 3, Objective A

Parents and Community

Superintendent's Note – SY 2016-17

Goal 3, Objective A of the District Accountability System tracks the percentage of schools that maximize and promote opportunities to build strong relationships with stakeholders that contribute to the advancement of student success and community pride. Engagement activities measured include communication efforts using all tools available such as callout notifications, website postings, and newsletters or flyers. Another important form of engagement are those efforts to offer events that bring parents and community into or in contact with the school, its staff and students.

Community and parent engagement is vital to the success not only of our schools – but also of our students. It is for this reason that the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is committed to increasing the level of interaction our school district has with both parents and other members of the community. A number of district level events are held each year to promote that interaction – but it's the close relationships built with our parents and school neighbors that are often the strongest and most enduring bonds. Those bonds lead to more involvement by parents as members of the PTA, and by both parents and community members as volunteers in the school or at community events held in conjunction with the school.

During the 2016-17 school year, the majority of our schools reported communicating with their parents through nearly every medium available. One hundred-percent of survey respondents report using the callout system and school websites to share information with these stakeholders. Ninety-eight percent also utilize newsletters and flyers to engage their parents with information. Strong communication is one of the most important elements in building a relationship with parents and the community. Sharing the good news happening in the school house is part of building strong morale and excitement throughout the community about the education and opportunities children are receiving there. Also, sharing with the community the needs of the school house is an integral part of persuading parents and the community to step up as volunteers and partners.

Interpersonal, face to face communication goes a long way toward building strong and lasting relationships between teachers and administrators with parents and the community. Bringing stakeholders into the school for community events, PTA meetings, and direct connections helps to solidify partnerships which in turn leads to better educational outcomes for students. Our schools are working hard to make those opportunities happen. Ninety-seven percent of schools responding to the survey hosted three or more PTA meetings last year. Only 86-percent held that many during the previous school year – showing excellent progress in achieving this school engagement activity goal. One school – Largo-Tibet Elementary - boasts of building participation in their PTA events from approximately 15 parents each session, to crowds of 200 to 300

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by incorporating activities for the entire family such as a kids vs. adults kickball game, a movie night, and performances!

The number of schools offering three or more parent conferences during the school year increased to 93.5-percent from just 86-percent in the 2015-16 school year. That falls within the range of significant progress toward this goal. Ninety-two percent of our responding schools report tracking parent volunteer hours – an eighteen percentage point rise from the 2015-16 school year report.

The work being done to engage parents and the community at our schools is widely varied in both scope and context. Nearly 100-percent (99.5%) of our schools hosted Academic based parent activities in the 2016-17 school year. STEM nights, Art Fairs and Cultural Festivals are popular events at many schools. Southwest Elementary had a huge turnout for their Literacy Night and East Broad K8 held three Early Learning College Sessions. Brock Elementary held a March Madness GMAS Information Session, while Low Elementary held a GMAS Super Bowl Information Session. Thunderbolt Elementary continued an innovative quarterly Report Card night and Supper Conferences and held an “Apps and Apps” parent technology night while White Bluff Elementary continues a unique parent cooking class hosted by the Parent Facilitator, designed to show parents how their children can assist them in the kitchen while improving their math skills. Seventy-eight percent of our responding schools hosted morale or Spirit based activities for their families in the 2016-17 school year – an improvement over the 74% reported in the previous school year, but still a couple of points shy of the level needed to show significant progress. Groves High hosts a very popular community event known as Groves Day with community members invited to participate in field activities, games, music and more with students and staff. Several schools partnered with the Savannah Banana's for Spirit Nights. Bloomingdale Elementary held monthly movie nights, a mother/son sock hop and a father/daughter dance along with a Pastries for Parents event!

Our school communities are also involved in events that benefit the neighbors around them – which helps to build strong, long-lasting relationships. A few examples include: Beach High School's partnership with COPE Savannah to combat obesity by providing free fruits and vegetables to families in need through community partner donations. The school also hosted a Community Health Care Fair in collaboration with Memorial Health University Medical Center. Hodge Elementary partnered with a local organization to assist parents in filling out paperwork to recertify for food stamps, TANF, SSI and Medicaid benefits. Islands High continues to host the Wilmington Island Farmer's Market on Saturday's throughout much of the year. Tybee Maritime parents played a key role in the planning and execution of the Tybee Tour of Homes which raised over \$16,000 for the school and Savannah Arts Academy hosted their annual outdoor concert the first Friday in May which invites the surrounding community to enjoy an evening of music on the school's front lawn.

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In addition to bringing the community into the school house, our schools and school administrators must go out into the community to further develop connections with neighbors and other community partners. Approximately 83% of our school principals took that extra step over the past school year – meeting the goal of participating in two community or civic events to achieve excellent progress for the district – with nearly 70% of those going above and beyond by participating in three or more. One example that shows the effectiveness of those efforts is the Haven Elementary School principal participating in a team building seminar with the school's contractor CPPI. CPPI staff in turn, visited the school to teach students about construction and donated items to assist Haven students affected by Hurricane Matthew. And finally, in SY 2016-17 twenty-four schools in the Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools achieved Model PTA. Model PTA is a designation that defines the most effective process for parental engagement in the school community, ensuring that schools, families, and the community work together for the benefit of all students.

The data reflected in the tables below was reported from each of our school administrators based on their school activities over the 2016-17 school year. Each individual school report shows progress in achieving the guiding principal that education is a shared responsibility between home, school, and the community.

A BREAKDOWN BY SCHOOL CAN BE FOUND ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES (SEE TABLES 1 – 5).

Rubric All Schools	Minimal Progress 0%-24% of Schools (1 point)	Fair Progress 25%-50% of Schools (2 points)	Moderate Progress 51%-79% of Schools (3 points)	Significant Progress 80%-96% of Schools (4 points)	Excellent On Target 97%-100% of Schools (5 points)
Achieves Model PTA status.		2			
Conducts three or more PTA meetings within the year.					5
Organizes morale/spirit based parent activities at the school.			3		
Organizes academic based parent activities at the school.					5
Keeps parents informed using school/parent newsletters.					5
Keeps parents informed using web-based tools.					5
Keeps parents informed using the call-out system.					5
Conducts three or more parent conferences.				4	
Principal participates in 2 or more civic events.				4	
Documents parent volunteer hours.			3		

SCORING KEY:

9 Points = Minimal Progress
 18 Points = Fair Progress
 27 Points = Moderate Progress
 36 Points = Significant Progress
 45 Points = Excellent Progress

SY 2016-17 TOTAL POINTS OF PROGRESS

41

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TABLE 1. Elementary SCHOOL	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Using the Call Out System	Posts Information W/Web- based Tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic Based Parent Activities	Offers Morale Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	# of Civic/Comm. Events
Bloomington	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Brock	No	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Butler	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Gadsden	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Garden City	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	2
Gould	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Haven	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3+	3+
Heard	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Hodge	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Howard	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Largo-Tibet	No	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Low	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Marshpoint	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Pooler	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Pt. Wentworth	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Pulaski	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	2
Shuman	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Smith	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	5+
Southwest	No	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3+	1
Spencer	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Thunderbolt	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
West Chatham	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	1
White Bluff	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	1
Windsor Forest	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+

TABLE 2. K-8 SCHOOL	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Using the Call Out System	Posts Information W/Web- based Tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic Based Parent Activities	Offers Morale Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	# of Civic/Comm. Events
East Broad	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	2	3+
Ellis	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Garrison	No	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Georgetown	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	1
Godley	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3+	3+
Hesse	No	1	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Isle of Hope	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2
Rice Creek	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+

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TABLE 3. Middle SCHOOL	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Using the Call Out System	Posts Information W/Web-based Tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic Based Parent Activities	Offers Morale Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	# of Civic/Comm. Events
Coastal	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	0
Derenne	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3+	2
Hubert	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	3+
Mercer	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3	3+
Myers	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	2
Southwest	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	1
STEM Academy	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
West Chatham	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	2

TABLE 4. High SCHOOL	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Using the Call Out System	Posts Information W/Web-based Tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic Based Parent Activities	Offers Morale Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	# of Civic/Comm. Events
Beach	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Early College	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Groves	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Islands	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	3+
Jenkins	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3+	1
Johnson	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	2	3+
New Hampstead	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	3+	2
Savannah Arts	Yes	0	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Liberal Studies	No	3+	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	1	1
Windsor Forest	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	3+
Woodville-Tomp.	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	3	3+

TABLE 5. Charter SCHOOLS	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Using the Call Out System	Posts Information W/Web-based Tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic Based Parent Activities	Offers Morale Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	# of Civic/Comm. Events
Coastal Empire Montessori	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	3+	3+
Oglethorpe Charter	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	0	3+
Savannah Classical	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported	None Reported
Tybee Maritime	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	3	3+