



District Accountability Plan Goal 4, Objective A Engaging Our Students' Parents

Executive Summary – March 2012

In the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System community engagement is a vital component contributing to the success of our schools and the continued growth of student achievement. All community members have the ability to provide meaningful input and support that fosters a collaborative partnership for the benefit of our students, our schools, and this community. While all stakeholders play a key role in the growth of public education, research clearly shows parental involvement is one of the most important factors contributing to student success. A positive learning environment at home, coupled with an engaged parent in the schoolhouse, has a powerful impact on student achievement and behavior. In support of fostering strong parental engagement, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has developed **Goal 4A: Engaging our Students' Parents**, as a component for measuring successful activities that reflect parental engagement.

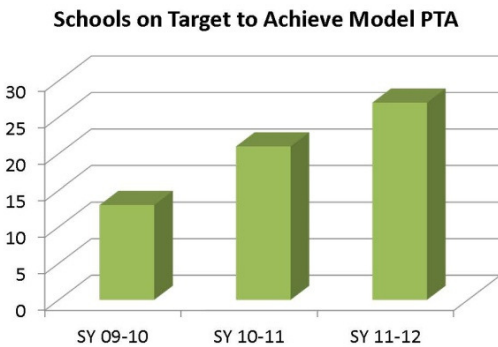


Figure 1

One such factor that illustrates parental involvement is that of a successful school PTA. Each year schools are encouraged to strive for the achievement of **Model PTA** status. This status provides a basis to gauge involvement through effective, well managed Parent Teacher Associations. Each year during the month of March this objective is measured with a final report provided by the Georgia PTA in the month of April. By meeting certain requirements set by the Georgia PTA, this distinction maintains a standing that defines an effective process for parent engagement, advocacy, and partnership in the school community. To attain model status a school PTA must meet 12 out of 14 administrative guidelines, as well as operational requirements. In doing so, each PTA will be required to grow membership levels, attend training workshops, set regular meetings, and develop a yearly plan of work. These requirements provide an outline and process for parents to be effectively engaged as advocates and school partners.

In Savannah-Chatham County, **25** schools are on target to attain Model PTA status for the 2011-2012 school year. As illustrated in Figure 1 above, the achievement is up from 19 schools during the 2010-2011 school year, representing a continued positive growth trend in the measurement of this objective. Within this report, please find table 1 for a complete list of schools on target to attain the Model PTA status.

The district's commitment to the support of activities that enhance parental involvement is illustrated by the expansion of DAS Goal 4A to include additional outreach efforts that represent increased parental involvement within all schools. The additional items being measured this school year include parent portal usage, school to parent communication efforts, PTA meetings held, and activities held at schools that encourage parental participation. While the school year is far from over, many school and district events have occurred that demonstrate community involvement, increased communication, and opportunities that generate parent engagement.

One such example includes Georgetown PTA's "Movie Night" where students, parents, and faculty gathered on a Friday evening to enjoy the movie "Dolphin Tale." The effort also included an educational presentation by members of the Skidaway Island Marine Science Center about dolphins and marine life. Schools have also organized thematic events designed solely for the purpose of parental involvement. One such example is that of "Parental Involvement Week" which offered a week long schedule of activities designed to engage parents with activities at the school. At Haven Elementary targeted events included Family Math Night, Reading Resources, Parent/Teacher Communication, and a Parent Appreciation Day. Also, the utilization of online resources as a communication channel has become a useful tool in Savannah-Chatham County. At Low Elementary, the school has a portion of its website dedicated to parents entitled "Parents and Students Working Together at Home." The item provides a focus on "math tips" that offers information designed to enhance math proficiency and encourage parental involvement while at home.

As the center of the community, schools often open their doors to the neighborhood they serve offering a chance for parents to engage with school personnel and community members. Beach High School hosted weekend events such as an "Appreciation Dinner for Coach Booker," and the annual "Fall Youth & Family Explosion" – a venue that sets out to connect the school, community, church, and families. Each year Pooler Elementary organizes an event that draws parents and community members together for the benefit of the school through the Pride of Pooler 5K run. The venue affords parents the opportunity to take ownership of their school in a way that generates great pride and provides for a successful fundraiser. Additionally, the district-wide Student Success Expo brought together students, parents, community partners, and school personnel for a day long venue that provided parents with information regarding SCCPSS programs of study. With over 4,000 in attendance, many parents had the opportunity to engage with school principals, faculty, and district administration.

The metrics being used to track these additional activities have been developed with the input of the Community Engagement Task Force. Metrics include a 15% yearly increase in the Parent Portal usage, a minimum of three PTA meetings held each year, one or more organized activities at the school that provide an opportunity for parent participation, and the usage of one or more of the following items that support school to parent communication efforts: a parent newsletter, web notifications, online teacher pages, usage of the call out system, and parent teacher conferences. The data that reflects the measurement of expanded outreach activities will be reflected in the next report concerning Goal 4A, which will be prepared in September 2012. The September report will encompass the 2011-2012 school year using the 2010-2011 school year as a baseline where applicable.

Table 1

Elementary Schools Model PTA Status

School	Achieved Model PTA 2009-2010	Achieved Model PTA 2010-2011	On Target to Achieve Model PTA 2011-2012
Bartow	No	No	No
Bloomingtondale	Yes	Yes	Yes
Butler	Yes	Yes	Yes
Gadsden	No	No	No
Garden City	No	No	No
Gould	No	No	Yes
Haven	No	No	No
Heard	No	No	No
Hodge	No	No	No
Howard	No	Yes	Yes
Largo-Tibet	Yes	No	Yes
Low	No	Yes	No
Marshpoint	Yes	Yes	No
Pooler	No	Yes	Yes
Port Wentworth	No	No	No
Pulaski	No	No	Yes
Shuman	No	Yes	Yes
J.G. Smith	No	Yes	Yes
Southwest	Yes	No	No
Spencer	Yes	Yes	Yes
Thunderbolt	No	No	No
West Chatham	No	Yes	Yes
White Bluff	No	No	Yes
Windsor Forest	No	No	No

K-8 Schools Model PTA Status

School	Achieved Model PTA 2009-2010	Achieved Model PTA 2010-2011	On Target to Achieve Model PTA 2011-2012
East Broad	No	No	No
Charles Ellis	No	Yes	Yes
Georgetown	No	No	No
Godley Station	N/A	Yes	Yes
Garrison	No	Yes	Yes
Hesse	Yes	Yes	No
Isle of Hope	No	Yes	Yes

Middle Schools Model PTA Status

School	Achieved Model PTA 2009-2010	Achieved Model PTA 2010-2011	On Target to Achieve Model PTA 2011-2012
Bartlett	No	No	No
Coastal	No	No	Yes
DeRenne	No	No	No
Hubert	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mercer	No	No	No
Myers	No	No	No
Oglethorpe	No	No	No
Southwest	No	No	No
West Chatham	Yes	No	Yes

High Schools Model PTA Status

School	Achieved Model PTA 2009-2010	Achieved Model PTA 2010-2011	On Target to Achieve Model PTA 2011-2012
Beach	No	Yes	Yes
Groves	No	Yes	Yes
Islands High	-NA-	-NA-	No
Jenkins	No	Yes	Yes
Johnson	No	No	No
Savannah Arts	No	No	Yes
Savannah High	No	No	Yes
Windsor Forest	No	No	Yes
Woodville-Tompkins	-NA-	-NA-	No