



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

Executive Summary – September 2012

In the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System parental involvement is a vital component contributing to the success of our schools and the continued growth of student achievement. When schools and parents work together in a partnership focused on student achievement, the end result is improved academics and the continued growth of a positive educational environment.

In support of fostering strong parental engagement, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has developed **Objective 4A: Engaging our Students' Parents**, as a component for measuring successful activities that increase the level of parental involvement in the educational process.

During the 2011-2012 school year, schools were active with events that provided opportunities for parental engagement. Organized activities were held, PTA Meetings conducted, and items that support school to parent communications were produced.

At Savannah High the school conducted a breakfast and banquet for parents of seniors, at Bartlett Middle the school staff served parents a spaghetti dinner during "Literacy Night" and "Math & Science Night," the Hesse K-8 PTA hosted a major community event called "Movie Under the Stars" that included a big screen on the school field, food, and family fun. During Movie Night the Hesse PTA volunteered to host the venue, students were highlighted on the big screen throughout the evening, and over 500 participated in the event.

White Bluff Elementary regularly conducted a planned "Coffee with the Principal" meeting that gave parents the opportunity to engage with the school principal, DeRenne Middle conducted a Spring and Fall Career Fair, and Garden City Elementary held Title I Parent Workshops.

Schools utilized the district call-out system to reach their parents with important notifications, event reminders, and school updates. Additionally, newsletters and flyers were often produced. At Butler Elementary weekly communication newsletters were generated, Hubert Middle produced monthly newsletters, and at Myers Middle a parent newsletter was regularly provided. Also, website updates played an important role in reaching parents. Pooler Elementary maintained a Parental Involvement Website and Teacher Websites, at Beach High a Parent Resources page was offered, and Coastal Middle School used the school's website extensively to communicate general information, as well as homework and assignments for all grade levels. Coastal Middle's effective online usage is paying dividends, as this site is one of the most visited of the school websites throughout the district.

The examples listed provide an illustration of the many activities that occur across the district where creating opportunities for parental engagement is a priority. The tables below (see tables 1,2,3,4) provide a listing by school that details the amount of outreach activities and type of communications conducted during the 2011-2012 school year. This data will serve as a baseline for the measurement of progress and a rubric will be developed to monitor the achievement of this objective.

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Table 1

Elementary Schools 2011-2012 SY

School	Number of PTA Meetings Held	Number of Outreach Activities Held at the School	Did the School Utilize Newsletter/Flyer Communications	Did the School Utilize the Call-Out System	Did the School Utilize Web Based Communications
Bartow	7	26	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bloomingtondale	5	20	Yes	Yes	Yes
Butler	19	21	Yes	Yes	Yes
CEMCS	10	10	Yes	No	Yes
Gadsden	4	24	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garden City	3	5	No	Yes	Yes
Gould	6	56	Yes	Yes	Yes
Haven	9	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Heard	6	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hodge	4	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
Howard	6	10	Yes	Yes	Yes
Largo-Tibet	4	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
Low	4	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Marshpoint	3	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pooler	4	11	Yes	Yes	Yes
Port Wentworth	6	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
Pulaski	3	5	Yes	No	Yes
Shuman	4	4	Yes	Yes	Yes
J.G. Smith	5	5	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southwest	4	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Spencer	5	12	Yes	Yes	No
Thunderbolt	4	6	Yes	No	Yes
West Chatham	21	30	Yes	Yes	Yes
White Bluff	7	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Windsor Forest	4	6	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 2

K-8 Schools 2011-2012 SY

School	Number of PTA Meetings Held	Number of Outreach Activities Held at the School	Did the School Utilize Newsletter/Flyer Communications	Did the School Utilize the Call-Out System	Did the School Utilize Web Based Communications
East Broad	4	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Charles Ellis	4	18	Yes	Yes	Yes
Georgetown	6	5	Yes	Yes	Yes
Godley Station	4	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Garrison	7	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hesse	14	14	Yes	Yes	Yes
Isle of Hope	7	10	Yes	Yes	Yes

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Table 3

Middle Schools 2011-2012 SY

School	Number of PTA Meetings Held	Number of Outreach Activities Held at the School	Did the School Utilize Newsletter/Flyer Communications	Did the School Utilize the Call-Out System	Did the School Utilize Web Based Communications
Bartlett	6	2	Yes	Yes	Yes
Coastal	4	7	Yes	Yes	Yes
DeRenne	4	3	Yes	Yes	Yes
Hubert	4	16	Yes	Yes	Yes
Mercer	4	13	Yes	Yes	Yes
Myers	6	45	Yes	Yes	Yes
Oglethorpe	4	15	Yes	Yes	Yes
Southwest	2	4	Yes	Yes	Yes
West Chatham	5	6	Yes	Yes	Yes

Table 4

High Schools 2011-2012 SY

School	Number of PTA Meetings Held	Number of Outreach Activities Held at the School	Did the School Utilize Newsletter/Flyer Communications	Did the School Utilize the Call-Out System	Did the School Utilize Web Based Communications
Beach	2	11	Yes	Yes	Yes
Groves	4	7	Yes	Yes	Yes
Islands High	5	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Jenkins	7	8	Yes	Yes	Yes
Johnson	4	12	Yes	Yes	Yes
Savannah Arts	21	37	Yes	Yes	Yes
Savannah High	5	4	No	Yes	Yes
Windsor Forest	9	3	Yes	Yes	Yes
Woodville-Tompkins	4	10	Yes	Yes	Yes

Another indicator of Parental Engagement is the district's "Parent Access" online portal. This technology allows parents the opportunity to access their child's grades, assignments, and attendance. Usage is tracked by the level of login activity and is listed below for the 2011-2012 school year. Trends indicate the highest level of use takes place during the months of October and March.

PARENT ACCESS	2011-2012 Login Activity
Elementary	21,821
K-8	37,616
Middle	41,959
High	92,210