



District Accountability System Goal 4, Objective A
Engaging Our Students' Parents
Executive Summary – September 2013

In accordance with the District Accountability System's Goal 4, Objective A, the school district is committed to increasing parental involvement as measured by the number of outreach activities conducted at each school.

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System has developed **Goal 4, Objective A: Engaging our Students' Parents**, as a component for measuring activities that encourage parental engagement. This objective includes nine areas of measurement that seek to determine the level of quality at which Savannah-Chatham Public Schools are working to achieve this goal.

All stakeholders play a role in the growth of public education, but parental involvement remains one of the most important factors contributing to student success. And while the level of involvement ultimately depends on the parent, the communication and outreach efforts our schools generate provide opportunities for stronger relationships that build upon positive learning experiences. In school year 2012-13, schools were active in their effort to connect with parents. School events, PTA meetings, communication efforts, and volunteer opportunities all contributed to engagement activities that benefit our students.

Schools continue to keep parents informed with communication tools through their schools web sites, newsletters, flyers, email notifications, and the phone messaging system. These engagement efforts serve to inform and create a sense of connectivity. They also serve as a tool to promote event based activities that bring parents to the school. School based events provide an opportunity for engagement outside the classroom that often helps teachers and parents build stronger relationships. For example, at Thunderbolt Elementary, the school's family dance and movie night is a favorite. And as the school's events included more and more student based performance activities, parent attendance steadily increased throughout the school year. Groves High School continues to build on a successful community event that brings the whole family together for "Groves Day." This school organized venue includes attractions, food, and family friendly events. Parents have the opportunity to show their support, build morale, and connect with the school. Gadsden Elementary offers school workshops through their parent center to help parents understand how their children can excel in Reading, Math, and Science. Curriculum based outreach efforts were popular among many schools. Many times a Math, Reading, or Science night gave parents the chance to gain a greater understanding of what is being taught in the classroom and how they can help their children achieve greater outcomes. West Chatham Middle was very proactive in this area with events that focused on reading strategies, data discussions, and lexile scores. Southwest Middle also offered a curriculum fair for all grade levels and subject areas. The event provided an excellent opportunity for administration to offer a content overview and for teachers to connect through interactive displays.

Some schools were creative with their engagement activities through special recognition events. At Hodge Elementary parents were honored with a special event at the school called the “*Parent Academy Graduation*.” This venue recognized those who participated in three or more family engagement activities throughout the year as a way to honor their involvement. Parents also participated in school celebrations like the “*SRI Progress Parade*” at Shuman Elementary. This celebration saw students and parents joined together in a march through the school to celebrate those who made great progress on their reading assessments. West Chatham Elementary used the Georgia Walk to School Day as a way to welcome parents and build on the spirit of community. The school participated and organized this annual event offering coffee and Danishes for participants. Over 200 parents and 400 students took part in this family friendly event.

In addition to school events, many district-wide activities exist that bring parents, students, and district personnel together. These events are often promoted at the schools through site based communication channels, providing additional avenues for school to parent connections. The Student Leadership Program, Student Success Expo, the LINKS Incorporated Youth Art Exhibition, Chatham County Spelling Bee, PTA Reflections Ceremony, and the Getting Ready for College workshops all provide great examples of district events that generate positive parental engagement experiences.

The examples listed above provide many highlights of the activities that are organized and offered across the school district as a way to stay connected and engaged with parents. The district will continue to support those activities that encourage parental engagement and build stronger relationships. This report details by school (**see tables 1,2,3,4,5**), the parental engagement activities being utilized during the 2012-13 school year. The scoring rubric illustrates significant progress in many areas and the quality points attained equals thirty-three. This score places the 2012-13 school year measurement just one point from the 2014 target.

Table 1: **Elementary Schools**

| School | Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours | # of Parent Conferences Offered | Uses Newsletter/ Flyers | Uses the Call-Out System | Posts Information with Web Based tools | Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities | # of PTA Meetings Conducted | Model PTA |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Bartow | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Bloomingtondale | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Butler | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| CEMCS | Yes | 2 | No | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Gadsden | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Garden City | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3 | Yes |
| Gould | No | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Haven | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3+ | No |
| Heard | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Hodge | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Howard | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/ Yes | 3+ | No |
| Largo-Tibet | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Low | Yes | 3 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes/ Yes | 3+ | No |
| Marshpoint | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3 | Yes |
| Pooler | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |

| | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|----------|----|-----|
| Pt. Wentworth | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Pulaski | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Shuman | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| J.G. Smith | Yes | 1 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Southwest | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/ Yes | 3+ | No |
| Spencer | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/ Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Thunderbolt | Yes | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| West Chatham | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| White Bluff | Yes | 3 | Yes | No | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Windsor Forest | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |

Table 2: K-8 Schools

| School | Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours | # of Parent Conferences Offered | Uses Newsletter/ Flyers | Uses the Call-Out System | Posts Information with Web Based tools | Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities | # of PTA Meetings Conducted | Model PTA |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| East Broad | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3 | No |
| Ellis Montessori | No | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Garrison | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Georgetown | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Godley Station | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Hesse | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Isle of Hope | Yes | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |

Table 3: Middle Schools

| School | Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours | # of Parent Conferences Offered | Uses Newsletter/ Flyers | Uses the Call-Out System | Posts Information with Web Based tools | Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities | # of PTA Meetings Conducted | Model PTA |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Bartlett | No | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Coastal | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3+ | No |
| DeRenne | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Hubert | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Mercer | No | 1 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Myers | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3+ | No |
| Oglethorpe Charter | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No/No | 3 | No |
| Southwest | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/ Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| West Chatham | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3+ | Yes |

Table 4: High Schools

| School | Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours | # of Parent Conferences Offered | Uses Newsletter/ Flyers | Uses the Call-Out System | Posts Information with Web Based tools | Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities | # of PTA Meetings Conducted | Model PTA |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Beach | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 1 | No |
| Groves | No | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | No/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Islands | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Jenkins | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Johnson | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/No | 3 | No |
| New Hampstead | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |
| Savannah Arts Academy | Yes | 0 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Savannah High-School of Liberal Studies | No | 3 | No | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |
| Windsor Forest | No | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 0 | No |
| Woodville | Yes | 3 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | No |

Table 5: Other Educational Centers

| School | Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours | # of Parent Conferences Offered | Uses Newsletter/ Flyers | Uses the Call-Out System | Posts Information with Web Based tools | Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities | # of PTA Meetings Conducted | Model PTA |
|------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Coastal GA Comp. | No | 1 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 0 | 0 |
| Early College | Yes | 2 | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes/Yes | 3+ | Yes |

Rubric: 2012-2013 School Year

| 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. | | | | 4 | |
| Organizes morale/spirit based parent activities at the school. | | | | 4 | |
| Organizes academic based parent activities at the school. | | | | 4 | |
| Keeps parents informed using school/parent newsletters. | | | | 4 | |
| Keeps parents informed using web-based tools. | | | | | 5 |
| Keeps parents informed using the call-out system. | | | | 4 | |
| Conducts three or more parent conferences. | | 2 | | | |
| Documents parent volunteer hours. | | | | 4 | |

SCORING KEY:

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

SY 2012-13 TOTAL POINTS:

33