



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

Executive Summary – March 2015

In accordance with the District Accountability System's Goal 4, Objective A, the Savannah-Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) is committed to increasing the level of interaction our school district has with parents and members of the community. The attainment of this objective will be determined by detailing ten areas of measurement that are reflective of engagement activities.

Community and parent engagement is vital to the growth of public education. And while the level of involvement ultimately depends on the individual, the outreach efforts generated across the school district provide opportunities for the development of relationships that build positive learning experiences. The Savannah-Chatham Public School System is showing significant progress in our work to provide school and district activities that generate engagement opportunities.

While the 2014-15 school year is not yet over, many activities have occurred that have given parents and community members the opportunity to connect and collaborate with SCCPSS. District level highlights include participation in the annual Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance "Ready, Set, Go" Back to School Fair, the Hunter Army Airfield Back to School Expo, and the Savannah Morning News Back to School Expo. A "Superintendent's New School Year Kick Off" was organized to celebrate the start of the 2014-15 school year. The event provided an informational overview to coincide with the start of the school year and was well received by community leaders. District 1, 2, and 5 Town Hall Meetings have been held along with individual Community Summit Meetings for all District 6 Schools.

SCCPSS was involved in the Hunter Army Airfield Community Leaders Informational Forum, Community Indicators Coalition, the Healthy Kids Campaign, NAACP Mass Meeting Educational Forum, New Beginning Youth Art Exhibition, and the Youth Art Month Exhibition at the Savannah Mall. The district also works closely with Parent University (PU) organizers to help promote Parent University and provides content for Parent University TV. This school year, three PU meetings have been held and Godley Station was featured on their television segment that airs on City-Span to discuss best practices for engaging the community. School and district staff also stayed engaged with parents and community members at events such as the District 6 PTA Fall Conference, Chatham County Spelling Bee, Student Leadership Program Kickoff, Georgia Day Parade, and the annual Teacher of the Year Gala.

Now in its seventh year, the district organized Student Success Expo was held at the Savannah Mall and is one of the premier parental engagement events offered by SCCPSS. The effort also builds relationships with the business community, as many partners play a key role in the organization of this event. Now in its second year, the SCCPSS Digital Literacy Rally was held in partnership with Comcast. The event provided an educational experience for parents that detailed the many tech-rich

learning environments and parent engagement tools found within Savannah-Chatham Public Schools. Parent engagement at this event was enhanced with informational stations that offered details on topics such as after-school programs, assessments, and the new Georgia Milestones. Attendance at the event was driven in part by iPad Mini giveaways that were provided by the event partner Comcast. Also this school year, after-school programs were featured in the second annual "Lights On" event organized at the leadership of the SCCPSS 21st Century Community Learning Centers. This heavily attended program brought students, parents, district leadership, and community members together in a family oriented festival that promoted the benefits of after-school programs. SCCPSS was able to capitalize on the excitement of the Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament as students began their winter break this year. This venue was heavily publicized and well organized through the Department of Athletics. It provided a positive venue to engage with student and parents, and presented an opportunity to work with Memorial Health as a contributing business partner.

In a new initiative called Family Academic Strategy Time (FAST), SCCPSS is now offering targeted parent informational sessions designed to support student academic success. FAST made its debut at the Digital Literacy Rally and is driven at the leadership of the district's Academic Affairs team. FAST events were also held in connection with the Student Success Expo and are scheduled to take place in the spring of 2015. The SCCPSS Title I Department has also been active in working with parents through community sessions that gather input and offer information on strategies parents can use to help their children succeed in school. Seven such meetings have been held so far this school year. And new this year, SCCPSS launched an engagement effort to showcase the benefit of business partnerships in a way that would create a networking opportunity for attendees. Two separate Business Partner Appreciation events have been held that brought school leadership together with existing and potential business partners.

On the site level, school organized events, PTA meetings, and outreach efforts, all contributed to positive activities that benefit our students. At Gadsden Elementary parent workshops were offered in a targeted format to ensure attendees were gaining the appropriate information in "Grade Level Parent Academics." Students at May Howard enjoyed learning experiences through the support of parents and the community in the school's annual STEM Night. Garrison's focus on bolstering the school PTA paid big dividends and was noticed by the Georgia PTA as Principal James Heater was named the "Outstanding Principal of the Year." Parent engagement was also recognized at Gould Elementary for exemplary practices that involve parents. The school was awarded the National PTA "School of Excellence" award. Thunderbolt is using the family tradition of "dinnertime talk" as the theme for their Supper Conference/Report Card Night. Parents are given the opportunity to have dinner at school and pick up student report cards a day early and conference with teachers. Largo-Tibet is working to advance reading skills and provides "Family Reading Nights" where families are invited to come to the school and read with their children, visit the Parent Center, and work on Accelerated Reading. West Chatham Middle celebrates diversity and offers a fine example of working with business partners in the annual "Multicultural Feast." The event also provides an opportunity to engage with military families and honors parents from all branches of the military. DeRenne Middle is working to share information about the arts, student accomplishments, and academic pathways associated with the medical field. The school presented a Creative Arts Festival and Medical Open House event for parents and students. Hubert Middle offered Math and SRI

workshops for parents. Southwest Middle and Georgetown K-8 held eighth-grade transitional nights for students and parents as they plan to make the move to high school. Beach High holds quarterly meetings for all grade levels that inform students and parents of school resources, community resources, application processes for college, volunteering, financial assistance, health care, and child care. Savannah High used the popularity of school athletics to generate parent engagement and gave away free tickets to a school basketball game for every parent that attended the school's ninth grade curriculum night.

The highlights listed in this report provide examples of the many activities that have been offered to encourage engagement, and represent those outreach efforts that have occurred through March 2015. These events help to foster strong community connections that strengthen community pride and student success. Additional information included in this report details by school (**see tables 1,2,3,4,5,6**), key engagement activities that have been utilized, including those schools that have submitted an application for Model PTA consideration. The report will be finalized with the calculation of the scoring rubric on the completion of the current school year and will be provided in September 2015.

Table 1: **Elementary Schools**

School	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Uses the Call-Out System	Posts Information with Web Based tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	Model PTA App	Two Civic Cmty events
Bloomingtondale	Yes	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	2
Brock	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
Butler	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	Yes	3+
Gadsden	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	3+
Garden City	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	3+
Gould	No	3+	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
Haven	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	3+	No	3+
Heard	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	2
Hodge	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	2
Howard	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	3+
Largo-Tibet	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	Yes	3+
Low	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
Marshpoint	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	2	Yes	2
Pooler	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	Yes	3+
Pt. Wentworth	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	2
Pulaski	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	1	No	2
Shuman	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	3+
J.G. Smith	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	3+	Yes	3+
Southwest	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	Yes	2
Spencer	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
Thunderbolt	No	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	2	No	3+
West Chatham	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	2
White Bluff	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	Yes	1
Windsor Forest	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	1

Table 2: K-8 Schools

School	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Uses the Call-Out System	Posts Information with Web Based tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	Model PTA App	Two Civic Cmty Events
East Broad	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	3+
Ellis Montessori	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	2
Garrison	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
Georgetown	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	3+
Godley Station	No	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	3+	Yes	3+
Hesse	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	2
Isle of Hope	No	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	1	No	3+

Table 3: Middle Schools

School	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Uses the Call-Out System	Posts Information with Web Based tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic/ Moral Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	Model PTA App	Two Civic Cmty Events
Coastal	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
DeRenne	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	2	No	2
Hubert	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	Yes	3+
Mercer	No	2	Yes	Yes	No	Yes / No	2	No	3+
Myers	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / No	1	No	3+
The STEM Academy at Bartlett	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	Yes	3+
Southwest	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	1
West Chatham	Yes	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3	No	1

Table 4: High Schools

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

Table 5: Charter Schools

School	Tracks Parent Volunteer Hours	# of Parent Conf. Offered	Uses the Call-Out System	Posts Information with Web Based tools	Uses Newsletter & Flyers	Offers Academic / Moral Based Parent Activities	# of PTA Meetings Conducted	Model PTA App	Two Civic Cmty Events
Coastal Empire Montessori Charter	Yes	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	2
Oglethorpe Charter	Yes	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	0	No	3+
Savannah Classical Academy	No	3+	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes / Yes	3+	No	3+
Tybee Island Maritime Academy	Yes	2	No	Yes	Yes	No / No	3	No	3+

Table 6: Other Educational Centers

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

Rubric: Available at the completion of the 2014-2015 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. **Applications submitted in March/April 2014	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Conducts three or more PTA meetings within the year.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organizes morale/spirit based parent activities at the school.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Organizes academic based parent activities at the school.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Keeps parents informed using school/parent newsletters.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Keeps parents informed using web-based tools.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Keeps parents informed using the call-out system.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Conducts three or more parent conferences.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Documents parent volunteer hours.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Principal participates in two or more community or civic events.	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

SCORING KEY:

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