

Family Engagement Policy

2019-2020

Revised 6/5/19

Parents and Families Matter

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As your partner in education, we have provided this menu of resources to help you and your child get the most out of their educational experience with Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools at <http://www.sccpss.com>

Registration, Calendars, School Nutrition Program, School Locator, Student/Parent Tools, How to Get Involved, Student Programs, Library Media Services, Athletics, District Forms, School Counselors and many more resources.



SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
**OPERATION BEACON
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**
Communities Lighting the Way For Tomorrow's Leaders

The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is looking for volunteers to donate their time at our schools. Volunteers provide valued resources and experiences for our students and create connections that strengthen our schools.



What is Family Engagement?



Family Engagement means the participation of parents or other family members, in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including making sure:

- (A) **That families play a role in assisting their child's learning.**
- (B) **That families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education**
- (C) **That parents /families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child.**
- (D) **The carrying out of other activities, such as those outlined in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).**



Savannah Chatham Public School System
208 Bull Street
Savannah, GA 31401

Family/School

AUGUST—Sent home

- School-Parent Compacts
- School Family Engagement Policy
- District Family Engagement Policy
- Family Engagement Budget Survey
- Notification to Parents of English Learners

SEPTEMBER

- Annual Title I Meeting—school sites

FEBRUARY—MARCH

- Annual Evaluation Surveys
- Family Forum—school sites

AUGUST-MAY

- Parent/family workshops— school sites
- Information posted on websites
- Events advertised two weeks in advance, in multiple ways
- Quarterly staff training on building capacity to work with parents/families
- Notification to Parents of English Learners



Family/ District

July 2019

*BACK TO SCHOOL SHOWCASE

January 2020

*STUDENT SUCCESS EXPO

Savannah Mall

*FAMILY ENGAGEMENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING (ALL TITLE I PARENTS ARE WELCOME)

April 2020

*FAMILY ENGAGEMENT DAY

Daffin Park

Academic Parent Teacher Teams (APTT) which is an evidence based family engagement model is being implemented during the 2019-2020 school year at Beach HS 9th Grade Academy and Brock Elementary School. Dates of APTT meetings will be posted on school websites and sent home with students. Families at these schools are invited to partner with teachers to set academic achievement goals through evidence based at home learning activities and strategies.



Building Family and School Capacity

For Parents/Families

SCCPSS will work as a district and through its schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information such as how Georgia Milestones and the Georgia Standards of Excellence connect to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. SCCPSS will provide workshops for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including monitoring student progress and alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these workshops will be advertised on websites and sent home with students. The **Back to School Showcase, Student Success Expo, Superintendent's Kick Off and Family Engagement Day** will be held as district-wide events.

SCCPSS will also conduct workshops such as literacy training and maintain district and school websites that will contain academic content resources and materials, APTT activities, and ways to help parents work with their children at home to improve academic achievement. Copies of materials will be made available at all schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in the student's home language. Additionally, workshops and webpages will assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy). Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school. On the district level workshops and information will be shared at the **Back to School Showcase, Student Success Expo and Family Engagement Day**.

A districtwide Family Engagement Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each school will provide advice on all matters related to family engagement programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council. This event is open to all parents of all students.

SCPSS will provide reasonable support for family engagement activities as requested by parents/families with the support of local school staff and community partners. This will include workshops and information related to **community resources, English language learners, SPED, GED, mental health & behavioral workshops at the Student Affairs Support Services Center (SASSC) at 400 East Broad Street, Savannah, GA.**

SCCPSS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Orientation so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. **Coordination of services will include Student to Work Job Fairs, Business Partner Events, Student Leadership Program, Chatham County Youth Commission, Summer 500 City of Savannah Youth Employment Program, PTA/PTSO, Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV, 21st Century, CTAE, IDEA, and other agencies.**

For School Staff

SCCPSS will conduct trainings during the school year for school family engagement personnel, with the assistance of parents, to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, in the value and utility of contribution of parents, how to work with parents as equal partners, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to staff that includes principals, teachers, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, and other staff of schools. If the school is implementing APTT, the SCCPSS Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) will conduct an APTT training for the school champions and entire school staff on request. The purpose of the FELT is to coordinate the sustainability and growth of APTT in the district.

Trainings will also be provided for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent/family programs, APTT meetings, and activities is available to all parents, each school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year during a family engagement orientation, school family engagement staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and APTT meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

Jointly Developed With Parents and Family Members

During a series of meetings all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district's family engagement policy, Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), School Improvement Plan/Title I Targeted Assistance Plans and Title I family engagement fund allocations for the 2019-2020 school year.

The district sent a flier home with each student informing parents of the meetings and posted the announcement on the district's website. Additionally, the district's public relations department did a media release concerning the date, locations and times of the meetings.

The district's Family Engagement Advisory Council reviewed the district family engagement policy before the end of the school year and contributed feedback. All feedback received was included with the policy for this school year.

Upon final revision, elements of the district family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the

state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the Family Engagement section of the district's web site.

The district family engagement policy was posted on the district and school websites, distributed during the Annual Title I school meetings held in September, and made available in the school's family resource centers.



Technical Assistance to Schools

The district Title I program managers will provide coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that strategies and activities to build effective family capacity which leads to student achievement and school performance are being implemented.

When necessary meaningful consultation will be conducted with local employers, business leaders, institutes of higher education or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parent and family member in education.

During the year school administrators and school family engagement staff will receive training on developing meaningful two way communication and consultation with families. This will include building capacities for strong staff and family engagement with EL families.



Reservation of Title I Family Engagement Funds

SCCPSS will reserve one percent from the total amount of the Title I, Part A funds it receives in FY20 to carry out family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, SCCPSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities with priority being given to high need schools. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each school will send out a **One Percent Family Engagement Budget** survey (fall) to parents and conduct a Family Forum (spring) where the one percent family engagement budget is discussed. Parent/Family feedback forms and minutes will be collected from this meeting. The survey and meeting feedback will be used to determine areas of family engagement need for the upcoming school year.



Funds reserved by the district will be used to provide books, pamphlets and various materials for families related to increasing family engagement especially among economically disadvantaged families. Workshops and supporting programs will also be provided to reach families at school and in the community. These activities and strategies will be provided primarily through the district events listed on the included calendar.

Additionally, professional development is provided to family engagement school personnel during the school year by community organizations such as Healthy Kids, Early Learning College, Salvations Army, Housing Authority and other agencies. Tours are conducted of community agencies to include family shelters, health care facilities, and neglected and delinquent properties. These trainings are delivered to school staff.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent/Family Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

District Title I Meetings ~ Student Success Expo, January 2020 and Family Engagement Day, April 2020

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from SCCPSS as well as review and provide input into the district family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2020-21 school year. Notices regarding these meetings will be advertised in multiple ways by the district and Title I schools. The district will also communicate information regarding these meetings on the school district website.

Family Forums ~ February/ March 2020

In the spring each Title I school will host two forums for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, building school staff capacity, the school's family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will advertise in multiple ways to notify about dates and times of the forums. Information regarding the Family Forums will also be made available on the school websites. Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual school and district evaluation survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a place for parents/families to provide comments.

All school, district Title I meetings and forums documents, handouts, agendas and presentations will be posted on websites for parents/families to view and provide input if they are unable to attend events.



Accessibility

In carrying out the family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the Title I district program managers will communicate and collaborate with schools to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand. District Title I letters, information and materials will be made available in a format and language that all parents can understand. This includes providing information and school reports required under Section 1112(4) in a format and extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

Adoption Of Family Engagement Policy

This districtwide family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in all schools to include Title I Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school and district personnel.

This policy was adopted by the Savannah Chatham County Public School System (SCCPSS) on June 5, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 academic school year. The district will make the policy available to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 31, 2019.



About the Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Savannah Chatham Public School System (SCCPSS) has developed this family engagement policy. This policy establishes the district's expectations for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's schools. This policy will describe SCCPSS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build capacity in its schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.



When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provided for family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. SCCPSS will work with its all schools to ensure that the required school-level family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(d) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

GET INVOLVED



Parent and Family Engagement Annual Evaluation

Each year SCCPSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family engagement policy and family engagement activities at the district and school levels. This review will be conducted by each school through an annual evaluation survey and Family Forums held at Title I schools in the spring of each year.

In addition to conducting surveys, each Title I school will hold a Family Forum to collect parent feedback on family engagement and to facilitate a discussion on the needs of families of children eligible to receive Title I services related to designing strategies for increased student achievement and effective family engagement.

Additionally, parents and family members will be asked how they can assist with the learning of their children including engaging with school personnel. This will include strategies on how to support school and family interaction.

SCCPSS will use these findings to design evidence based strategies to improve effective family engagement to remove possible barriers to parent/family participation which include economic disadvantages, disabilities, limited English proficiency, limited literacy or other background issues. This information will be used to revise its family engagement policies, family engagement budget, and school-parent compacts.

To take the survey on line click on the QR code below.



You Make a Difference

Neglected and Delinquent Children

Parents, parent proxies or legal guardians of students in neglected facilities will be informed of all family engagement activities provided by the LEA (Savannah-Chatham County Public School System). To the extent practicable, school-based Family Resource Centers shall be available to these parents, with educational resources available for check-out.

Savannah Chatham County Public School System Title I, 402 Market St, Savannah, GA 31408