

# TITLE I FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN 2020-21



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## WHAT IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

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Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication. Generally, communication involves student academic learning and other school activities, which ensures that:

- *Parents play an integral role in assisting with their child's learning.*
- *Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.*
- *Parents 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.*
- *Other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA are implemented.*

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## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Camden County Schools (CCS) has developed this Family Engagement Plan (FEP) that establishes the district's expectations for family engagement and guides the action steps and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe CCS' commitment to engage families in the education of their children, to establish quality relationships with families and to strengthen the skills of the teachers in its Title I schools. The objective is to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to reach the district's goals for increased student academic achievement and graduating every student.



When schools, families, and community members collaborate to support learning, student achievement increases, they remain in school longer and enjoy the learning environment more. Title I Part A provides for parent and 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 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the district will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement practices meet the requirements of Section 1116 (b) and include, as a component, a School-Parent Compact consistent with Section 1116 (d) of the ESEA.

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***JOINTLY DEVELOPED***

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Each school identifies members of the school advisory council to serve on the district Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT). By attending the FELT meetings, the parents of students enrolled in Title I schools, including parents of homeless, migrant, special education, neglected and delinquent children, are given the opportunity to provide input and to participate in the joint-development of Camden County Schools' Family Engagement Plan. Community members, business owners and government officials also participate. During these meetings, the parents also review, discuss and offer input on the Consolidated Local Education Agency (LEA) Improvement Plan, referred to as the CLIP. The FELT Meetings are held twice a year.



Parent input from the local school Title I Meetings, the District Stakeholder Meetings, and the Title I Annual Parent Survey is used to revise the district's Family Engagement Plan (FEP). Upon final revision, the district's FEP is incorporated into the CLIP, which is submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. Participants were informed of meetings via personal emails and calls. Alternative opportunities to review the plan were provided for those who could not attend. A link to the CLIP was uploaded on the system website for a week following the meeting. Parents may submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time by submitting written comments to their child's school or through contacting the Director of Federal Programs.

All feedback received is considered when revising the FEP for the current school year. Upon revision the district FEP was incorporated in the CLIP. The CCS Family Engagement Plan is posted on the district website reviewed during the Title I Annual Parent Meetings held at the local schools, distributed to parents through the Title I Parent Handbook, and made available in all Title I school's Parent Resource Centers.



Opportunities for parents to express concerns, ask questions or voice complaints are outlined in the Camden County Schools' Complaint Procedures, which are located in the Title I page found on the system website.

During the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) meeting, stakeholders were invited to participate, provide suggestions and input regarding Camden County Schools' Family Engagement Plan for 2020-21.

The district took the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

- During the Annual Stakeholder CLIP Meeting, a copy of the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and action plans were provided for review.
- During the annual stakeholder meeting on May 29, 2019, internal stakeholders, parents, families and community members were invited to partner with Camden County Schools in the development of the improvement plan.
- Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic another meeting was not held in the spring of 2020. As plans were not executed to completion in FY20, they will continue in FY21.
- At the 2019 meeting the CLIP, FEP, and action plans were reviewed.
- Parents, families and community members were given an opportunity to provide comments and feedback.
- Parents and families were informed of actions to engage in their child's academic achievement.
- Upon final revision, the FEP was incorporated into the CLIP and submitted to the state.
- The final district parent and FEP were posted on the system and schools' website and made available in parent resource centers.

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***EVERY STUDENTS SUCCEEDS ACT REQUIREMENTS***

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Camden County Schools (CCS) has developed the Family Engagement Plan (FEP) that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement. CCS receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written FEP that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The FEP describes how CCS will implement a number of specific activities, and it is incorporated into the plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.



**The Camden County Schools agree to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

- To build positive relationships between schools and family members, the district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement practices meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- Should the plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, not be satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will consider parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
- (C) Parents 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116(b) of the ESSA

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### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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The Camden County Schools will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The assistance may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education. The following assistance will be provided:

- Title I Parent Involvement staff will provide assistance to the schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being met, school personnel understand FEP strategies and activities are being implemented with fidelity.
- Each school will have access to a Title I Parent Involvement staff who will provide support for and assistance in the development and provision of effective activities.
- Notices and other important Georgia Department of Education parent involvement initiatives will be provided to administrators and interventionists.

- Documentation and checklists will be provided to administrators outlining activities, including professional development, and including timelines for due dates.

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## FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

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Each year, Camden County Schools will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the FEP and activities to improve the academic quality of Title I schools. This will be achieved through an annual parent survey and stakeholders' meetings. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background).



The evaluation will include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its plan to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary. The follow will occur regarding the evaluation:

- The school district, in partnership with stakeholders, will use the findings of the evaluation about its FEP and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement.
- Through the annual parent survey, the district will evaluate the efficacy of the family engagement plan to improve academic quality of Title I schools.
- Administrators are required to complete an annual evaluation and to provide a summary of the results of parent surveys and/or focus groups.
- The schools' results are shared during the district Title I Family Engagement Leadership Team (FELT) by knowledgeable participants, which are typically those who have attended the school Title I meetings.
- Parents, in district meetings conducted by the Title I Director, are asked for and provide valuable input during district level meetings.

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## RESERVATION OF FUNDS

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The CCS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY21 to fulfil the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Additionally, the system will distribute the entire 1 percent of the reserved funds to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear direction and communication to assist each Title I school in developing a suitable family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

- The school district will partner with parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools to make decisions regarding how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent.
- The district will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools

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### COORDINATION OF SERVICES

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Camden County Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant federal, state, and local laws and programs. The following steps are taken to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children:

- Camden County Schools will partner with families by providing opportunities to participate in adult development and parent education activities.
- Families may receive supports related to critical needs, family aspirations for their child, and community resources.



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### BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS AND FAMILIES

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Camden County Schools will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure an effective school - parent connection, to support a partnership among the schools, parents, and the community ultimately improving student academic achievement, through the following activities described below:

- Parents are provided support to understand the standards, assessments, and Title I requirements, typically during annual meetings and then as needed or during school functions.
- Parents are provided time to learn and/or written information on how to monitor their child's work through PowerSchool.
- Parents have the opportunity to request additional information through teachers and administrators, as well as other support staff.
- Documents and resources are typically made available in hard copy or via web links.
- Camden County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their child's academic achievement.
- Parents are invited to workshops, family nights, Math and Science Fairs, conferences, reading nights and a host of other activities identified through parent involvement surveys and achievement needs.
- Technology devices (i.e. computers, laptops), as well as a wealth of parent information, are made available to parents on websites and are located in the parent resource rooms at each school.

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### **BUILDING STAFF CAPACITY**

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The CCS will conduct trainings during the school year for principals and schools to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be delivered to the faculty and staff of all Title I schools. The focus will be on creating welcoming environments, improving two-way communication with families, utilizing contributions of parents, and working with parents as equal partners. CCS will build bonds between parents and schools by:

- Professional learning will be provided quarterly to staff on how to effectively communicate and work with parents.
- Training on effective communication will focus on simplifying language in communications/conferences so that all parents understand the messages.
- CCS will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
  - Parents receive information by paper copy, district, school, and/or teacher websites, Facebook, emails, and texts in understandable and uniform formats and to the extent practicable in home languages as requested.
  - Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.
- Additional training is scheduled as needed or desired.

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### **ADOPTION**

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This districtwide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as

evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the District CLIP meeting.

This plan was adopted by the **Camden County Schools** on June 31, 2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 10/1/20.

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*(Signature of Authorized Official)*

July 31, 2020  
*(Date)*