



2018-2019

BIBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Revised March 22, 2018

## What is Family Engagement?

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

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education.
- That 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

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# About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Bibb County School District (BCSD) developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement. It describes BCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and builds the capacity of its Title I schools to succeed in reaching 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 provides for substantive 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 Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the BCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

## Jointly Developed

During the annual State of the District Forums in the spring, all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement plan for the 2018-2019 school year. The district uses advertisements via social media, district and school websites, automated calling system (in English and Spanish), emails, and flyers to inform parents about the meetings. During the meetings, parents also review and discuss the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). At the school Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forums, parents are invited to review and provide input on developing the district and school improvement plans.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan is incorporated into the CLIP, which is submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All feedback received by March 22, 2018 is included with the plan for the 2018-2019 school year.

The district parent and family engagement plan is posted on the district and school websites and distributed during the annual Title I school meetings held prior to September 1, 2018. The plan is included in the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Guidebook that is sent home with students at the beginning of the school year and made available in the schools' parent resource areas.

## Strengthening Our Schools

The district utilizes the PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnership, adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010, to support family and community engagement.

*The six standards are welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power, and collaborating with the community.*

A district Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) and Family Engagement Specialists (FES) will provide technical assistance and coordinate district family engagement activities with the school Family Engagement Facilitator (FEF) or school

representative to ensure the six standards are being satisfied and that processes and activities are implemented and evaluated. In addition to school visits and webinars, the FEC and FESs will hold frequent meetings/trainings with principals and FEFs to review family engagement plans; learn and discuss strategies to increase family and community engagement; and develop effective forms of two-way communication. Additionally, the district convenes a Victory in Progress (VIP) meeting in July for principals to review family engagement requirements, timelines and guidance on Title I, Part A. The district collaborates with Communities in Schools and United Way of Central Georgia to engage parents and family members effectively in education.



## Reservation of Funds

The BCSD reserves one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives for 2018-2019 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements consistent with this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the BCSD distributes 90 percent of the one percent reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district provides 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.

At the State of the District and school FACE Forums in the spring, parents provide input on how the one percent required family engagement funds are used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Each Title I school will survey parents in November for suggestions. Survey results and stakeholder input forms from the forums are reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.





## Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Input

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 on decisions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

### **State of the District Forums**

#### **February 6 and 7, 2019**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Bibb County School District as well as review and provide input into the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2019-2020 school year. Notices regarding the forums are made available to all parents in advance of the meetings. The district also communicates information regarding these input meetings on the school and district websites.

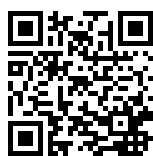
### **Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forums**

#### **February 7-March 7, 2019**

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, school parent and family engagement plan, school-parent compact as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and program activities. Each Title I school will send information home and post details on social media notifying parents and family members about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the FACE Forums will also be made available on each Title I school website.

Parent input on decisions regarding use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be submitted through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit [www.bcsdk12.net/TitleI](http://www.bcsdk12.net/TitleI) to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



*Scan this code with your smartphone or tablet to access Title I and family engagement information from the BCSD website.*

# Building Capacity of Families and Staff

The BCSD will build school and parent capacity for strong family engagement to ensure effective involvement of family members and the community, as equal partners, to improve student academic achievement through districtwide activities and programs.

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## OF FAMILIES

**SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS.** The district and through its Title I schools will work to Support Student Success by providing assistance to parents and family members in understanding state and district academic information connected to their children's learning and progress and information regarding the Title I program. The district provides Victory in Schools (VIS) Parent University, a family engagement model, to help families build upon skills, knowledge and support systems to improve student success. VIS Parent University offers online resources and workshops for parents to gain knowledge about Georgia Standards of Excellence, state curriculum and achievement goals, as well as required assessments including alternative forms of assessments for Georgia students. Additional materials will be available in each school parent resource area for those families who may have limited internet access, including resources in Spanish, where possible.



**SPEAKING UP FOR EVERY CHILD.** To empower parents and community leaders to become advocates for their own and other children, the BCSD has a districtwide Superintendent Parent Advisory Council and a Business in Education Partnership (BEP). Parents, community leaders, and business partners are invited to serve on each respective council to share ideas on all matters related to school policies, procedures, and family and community engagement. In addition, each school has an active council at the school-level.

**SHARING POWER.** The district and schools are committed to encouraging opportunities for parents and family members to serve as parent leaders by organizing events, volunteering at school, participating in PTA/PTO, and networking with each other and with the community.



**COMMUNICATING EFFECTIVELY.** Each Title I school will host monthly workshops and have a parent page on its website that contains grade level resources, including study guides and practice assessments to help parents work with their children at home. The district family engagement specialists and technology specialists will support Title I schools in assisting parents with how to monitor their child's progress using Parent Portal, the online student information system. Parents will receive information about other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy). Dates and times for workshops will be determined.



**COLLABORATING WITH THE COMMUNITY.** BCSD will develop resources to expand learning, community service, and civic participation that enhance the school environment.

**WELCOMING ALL FAMILIES.** To ensure a smooth transition from one school environment to another for parents of rising kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, BCSD will host Kindergarten Roundup and Smooth Move events so parents may tour schools and receive information to help them prepare for a new setting. BCSD will coordinate with other federal and state funded preschool programs to plan and integrate family engagement activities and resources.

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## OF STAFF

The BCSD will conduct quarterly trainings for principals and FEFs to learn and discuss strategies to strengthen family engagement and build ties with families and the community. The district will create, with input from parents and family members, several presentations on Creating a Welcoming Environment and Improving Communication with Families that will be available to schools for training purposes.

To ensure that information related to district, school and parents programs is available to all parents, each Title I school will send home in August a Title I Parent and Family Engagement Guidebook, which provides information related to meetings and other activities in an understandable and uniform format. FEFs and appropriate school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable. Interpreters will be available for parent events and meetings. In addition, the district and schools will distribute information about school policies, programs and activities on the district/school websites, through flyers, newsletters, emails, social media, and the district's automated calling system.

# Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Parents are provided opportunities to participate, as equal partners, in the decisions that affect children and families. The BCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the State of the District and school FACE Forums.

Beginning in November, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the school FACE Forums to facilitate group discussions to obtain input from parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The district and schools will use the findings from the forums and the survey results to implement processes for effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise parent and family engagement plans.



## Mark Your Calendar

» UPCOMING EVENTS

### ***For Parents***

Understanding Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment  
September 2018

Helping My Child Succeed  
October 2018

Annual Parent Survey  
November 12-December 14, 2018

State of the District Forums  
February 6 and 7, 2019

School FACE Forums  
February 7-March 7, 2019  
Local school site

### ***For Schools***

Victory in Progress (VIP)  
District/Administrators  
July 2018

Family Engagement Facilitator Meeting  
July 2018

Effective Two-Way Communication  
August 2018

Building Parent and Staff Capacity  
September-November 2018

FEF Zone Meeting  
January 2019

### ***Superintendent's Listening Sessions***

September and December 2018  
March 2019

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district FEC will communicate and collaborate with the Office of Student Affairs. To ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, the district will provide information and school reports in a language parents can understand to the extent possible.

## Adoption

This district parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon 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 annual State of the District Forum.

This plan was adopted by the Bibb County School District on March 22, 2018 and will be in effect for the 2018-2019 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2018.