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Valdosta City Schools
Districtwide Parent and Family Engagement Plan
School Year 2017-2018

Revision Date 7/25/2017

Valdosta City Schools

Districtwide Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2017-2018

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Valdosta City Schools 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 parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

Valdosta City Schools agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school 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 parents and 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 policies 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 ESEA.
- 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.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any 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 engagement 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 engagement 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 of the ESEA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED
LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Valdosta City Schools will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- a. Completion of the Title I Annual Parent Survey;
 - b. Review survey results with parents.
 - c. Provide opportunities for parents in understanding and submitting input for District Title I Parent and Family Engagement Plan revisions by posting the parent plan on the district and school websites and in school Parent Resource Centers;
 - d. Meeting notices of plans to revise district parent plan will be advertised through the local media, on district and school websites, and in school Parent Resource Centers;
 - e. Parent notifications to participate in the revision of the Comprehensive Local Education Planning (CLIP) and Title I Parent Advisory Meetings at the district and local school level.
2. Valdosta City Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school planning and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
- a. All Title I Parents will receive invitations to participate in planning sessions and provide input on the School Improvement Plan (SIP); Title I Schoolwide Plan (SWP); Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Parent Involvement Budget, and Title I Budget.
 - b. Plans will be posted on the District and school websites with copies made available at the District office, in Title I School's Parent Resource Centers.
 - c. Title I Program Evaluations will be conducted throughout the school year with opportunities for parental input on Title I Surveys, at local schools' Annual Meetings, and workshop activities

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Valdosta City 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, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- a. On-going system-wide training, communication, and discussions with schools regarding effective development of school parent plan and compacts.
- b. Easy and convenient access to district Title I personnel;

- c. Provide support and assistance in building effective parent capacity in the school;
- d. Assistance in development and annual revision of school-level parent plan, home/school compact and action plan.
- e. Provide monthly Technical Assistance to Parent Coordinators as a group and individually.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

Valdosta City Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. 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 also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- a. Annual Parent Survey: Parent participation in the annual survey is promoted through local media, district and school websites, and school newsletters. For parents who may not have access to take surveys on-line, hard copies will be provided for all parents;
- b. Parent program evaluations at the conclusion of workshops meetings, and other parent events;
- c. Collection and summarization of system-wide data on parental engagement at district and school meetings, events and activities;
- d. Provide a calendar of events for timely notification. These calendars will highlight events and activities that impact student academic achievement;

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Valdosta City Schools will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I school

- All Title I Parents will receive invitations to participate in planning sessions and provide input on the School Improvement Plan (SIP); Title I Schoolwide Plan (SWP); Comprehensive Local Education Agency Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Parent Engagement Budget, and Title I Budget.
- The Annual Title I Parent Survey provides an opportunity for parents in understanding and submitting input on the 1% set aside of Title I funds.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Valdosta City Schools will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State,

and local laws and programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Collaborating to develop parent programs with:

1. School counselors;
2. EL Program;
3. Migrant Program;
4. Homeless Program;
5. Family Connections of Valdosta-Lowndes;
6. The Boys and Girls Club;
7. Faith-based organizations;
8. Local Public Housing Authorities

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Valdosta City Schools will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

1. the State's academic content standards and College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI);
2. the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
3. the requirements of Title I,
4. how to monitor their child's progress, and
5. how to work with educators:

Activities may include:

1. Parent workshops concluded with program evaluations;
2. Curriculum-based events based on school defined academic goals such as: Understanding academic content standards, CCRPI workshops, Homework Help workshops, Family Reading Night, Curriculum Night events that may highlight state assessments;
3. English Learners (EL) Parent Orientation/Training Sessions;
4. Parent Advisory Meetings;
5. Parent/Teacher Conferences;
6. District and school-level Title I Parent Meetings, School Council, and CLIP Meetings; and
7. Explanation of testing and student results;

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Valdosta City Schools will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff on how to reach the value and utility of contributions of parents by:

:

- a. Communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners, in the development of trainings for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of those trainings
- b. Coordinating and integrating parental engagement programs and activities with public preschool and other programs, and conducting other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.

- c. Ensuring that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, are 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.
- d. Provide other reasonable support for parental engagement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

Districtwide Events

Tools for Success (Testing workshop about GMAS and other assessments)
November 16, 2017

Valdosta City Schools Math Carnival
February 15, 2018

Title I Annual Survey
January 26-February 26, 2018

To build capacity for involvement, parental engagement activities will be hosted monthly at each school. Parents will be given advance notification of each event. Parents will also be given opportunities to volunteer during these events.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by agendas and sign in sheets from stakeholder meetings on July 18, 2017 and July 20, 2017.

This policy was adopted by the Valdosta City Schools on 7/25/2017 and will be in effect for the period of the 2017-2018 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 7, 2017.



(Signature of Authorized Official)

7/25/17

(Date)