

Galax City Public Schools
District Wide Parental Involvement Policy
2014-2015

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Galax City Public Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, 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 involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that

not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) 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;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Galax City Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Each school will convene an annual meeting in October of each school year
 - Multiple opportunities will be available for parents to have input on the annual plan.
 - Curriculum information will be made available to all parents at the annual meeting.
 - Assessment information will be made available to all parents at the annual meeting.

2. The Galax City Public Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - The Title I and School Improvement meetings will be open to all parents
 - The primary function of the Title I and School Improvement meetings will be to allow parents to review available data with school staff and to provide input to assist schools in modifying and updating School Improvement Plans.
 - The Elementary Administration will provide ongoing communication and monitoring concerning the progress of the goals and objectives outlined in School Improvement Plans

3. The Galax City Public Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - The elementary school will receive a budget for parental involvement activities using Title I funds.
 - The Central Office Title I staff will provide technical assistance and assist elementary faculty and parents in obtaining data necessary to analyze current trends and make decisions.
 - School level parent involvement programs will include information regarding local and state assessment programs, curriculum content and available after school programs.

4. The Galax City Public Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - Galax City Public Schools will work collaboratively with the local Head Start Program
 - The elementary school will develop its own summer and after school programs using available data regarding student performance and needs.
 - Coordination with the middle school in planning and implementing a transition program will occur.

5. The Galax City Public Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
 - Galax City Public Schools will monitor parent participation in open house, parent conferences, activity nights, and community events through sign in sheets
 - Teachers will furnish lists and feedback from parental conversations
 - As part of the School Improvement Plan, each school will develop and implement strategies to increase parental involvement based on this data.
 - The Title I and School Improvement committee will be representative of the following stakeholders: economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency, limited literacy, or any racial or ethnic minority background.
 - The Title I and School Improvement committee will work collaboratively with schools to develop the School Improvement Plan.
 - Galax City Public Schools will continue to utilize the local newspaper, website, flyers and text messages to notify parents of meetings and important school events.

1. The Galax City Public Schools will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and

- how to work with educators:
 - Galax City Public Schools will establish dates on the school calendar for the parent/teacher conferences
 - School and individual teacher websites will provide information regarding school events and contact information.
 - The division’s parental involvement policy will be available in each student handbook and on the division website.
 - Dates for progress reports and 9 week report cards will be included on the school calendar and on the division website.
 - Information regarding how to access division curriculum and state standards will be available in each student handbook and on the division website.
 - The school administrator will review established benchmarks for achieving state accreditation and Adequate Yearly Progress as defined by No Child Left Behind legislation. Principals will schedule the dates and times of these workshops so that they are conducive to maximum parental participation.

B. The elementary school will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

- Family Night academic activities will be developed by reading and math specialists.
- Events to showcase student work will be planned through the Community Relations Committee.
- Assistance with technology, including the Parent Portal, will be offered on open house and parent conference nights.
- Multiple opportunities to create conversations between families and school, view student work and generally be a part of the school community will be provided through open houses, cookouts, book fairs, special programs and assemblies, field trips, and family nights.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- The division will annually staff a Community Relations Committee whose main focus is to integrate the schools and the community.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

- Galax City Public Schools will work collaboratively with the local Head Start Program
- Galax City Public Schools will work collaboratively with Smart Beginnings and the local Virginia Star Quality Initiative program
- Galax City Public Schools will coordinate a summer and after school program, coordinating with the Galax Recreation Center, Galax Public Library, and area day care centers incorporating parent involvement.
- Galax City Public Schools will operate a Virginia Preschool Initiative class, a Title I class and a locally funded class for at risk four-year old children with state and local funding.
- Preschool will provide information to parents in the following areas: Virginia's Foundation Blocks for Early Learning, Home Safety, and Health & Nutrition.
- All preschool applications and notifications will be available in Spanish and interpreters will be provided to assist parents in completing applications.
- Preschool classes will hold open houses and parent visitation hours in conjunction with the school calendar.

E. The school district 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:

- Galax City Public Schools will establish dates on the school calendar for parent/teacher conferences. The school calendar will be available on the division website and in the opening school information package.
- Upcoming programs and events will be listed monthly on the division and school websites.

- Where feasible, articles and notices will be available in the local newspaper.
- School and individual teacher websites will provide information regarding school events and contact information.
- The division's parental involvement policy will be available in each student handbook and on the division website.
- Dates for progress reports and 9-week report cards will be included on the school calendar provided to parents in September and on the division website.
- Information regarding how to access division curriculum and state standards will be available in each student handbook and on the division website.
- Notices to Spanish Speaking parents will be translated to their native language.

PART III. ADOPTION

This District wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the minutes from Title I and School Improvement meetings.