

Camden County Schools
FY 17 Title I Parent Involvement
Revised 7-29-16

Part I

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS

The Camden County 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 of 1965 (ESEA). These 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 districtwide 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

ACTIONS

1. Camden County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

Invite parents to participate in the annual district Title I meeting via website, newspaper, and emailed or written invitations to each school’s Title I advisors.

2. Camden County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

Invite parents to participate in the annual district Title I meeting via website, newspaper, and emailed or written invitations to each school’s Title I advisors.

3. Camden County 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:

- Each school will be provided access to a Title I Intervention Specialist who will provide support for and assistance in development and provision of effective parent involvement 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.

4. The Camden County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: state-operated preschool programs/Head Start by:

Pre-k teachers are included in each school's parent involvement training. Head Start and other entities will be invited to a parent involvement workshop to discuss effective parent involvement strategies in the spring of 2016.

5. Camden County 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.

Administrators are required to complete an annual evaluation and to provide a summary of the results of parent surveys and/or focus groups prior to the annual Title I meetings. The schools' results are shared during the district meeting by knowledgeable participants, which are typically those who have attended the school meetings. Parents, in district meetings conducted by the Title I director, are asked for and provide valuable input during district level meetings.

PART III

1. Camden County Schools will build the schools' and parents' 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:

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 have the opportunity to request additional information through teachers and administrators, as well as other support staff. Parents are provided time to learn and/or written information on how to monitor their child's work through PowerSchool. Documents and resources are typically made available in hard copy or via web links.

B. Camden County Schools will, with the assistance of its schools, 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:

Parents are invited to Academic Parent-Teacher Team meetings, 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.

C. Camden County Schools 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:

Professional learning is provided at least annually to staffs on how to effectively communicate and work with parents. Additional training is scheduled as needed or desired. The foundation of these trainings is based on the National PTA standards and the work of Joyce Epstein and embedded in the Department of Education's Building Parent Capacity modules. Additionally, training on effective communication will focus on simplifying language in communications/conferences so that all parents understand the messages.

D. Camden County Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, 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:

Pre-k teachers are included in each school's parent involvement training. Head Start and other entities will be invited to a parent involvement workshop to discuss effective parent involvement strategies in the spring of 2016.

E. Camden County Schools 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.

F. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

District and school administrators provide a wide variety of support to parents. Web-posted calendars, newsletters, E-blasts, text messages, documents, phone calls, and links to resources, as well as Facebook and PowerSchool are used to communicate, inform/invite parents to activities, and provide a vast amount of information and support. Conferences and other communications are always available to parents. Principals and other school personnel are available for parent support.