

# Brooks County School District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Brooks County Board of Education  
1081 Barwick Road  
Quitman, GA 31643

SY 2023-24 / FY 2024

Revised 6/15/2023



## 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:

- 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 others activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

## About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

- In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Brooks County School District (BCSD) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe BCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve 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, BCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental and family engagement policies 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.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Family Engagement Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with appropriate staff members to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.



## Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold regular meetings and trainings with its Title I school FEC to review family engagement requirements, plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in the fall for school FEC to review family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.



## Reservation of Funds

- BCSD will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY24 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. BCS will distribute 90% of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide 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
- Each Title I school will survey parents to gather suggestions on how family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Survey results will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.



This policy will be in effect for the 2023-2024 school year. The policy will be distributed in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before November 1, 2023.



This policy is revised yearly with the input of parents and stakeholders.





## Jointly Developed

- BCSD will invite all parents and community members to participate meeting opportunities in the spring to provide feedback for revisions to the District Improvement Plan, Title I Schoolwide plans and feedback on the Family Engagement policy. These meetings will be held at various times throughout the spring to provide a variety of opportunities for parents to provide feedback.
- Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website, at monthly Coffee and Conversation meetings, or by submitting written comments to your child's school. The district parental involvement policy is posted on the district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings held in the fall, and made available in the school's parent resource areas.

## Early Education

- BCSD will ensure to execute, implement and share information in regards to activities for parents in which they will understand methods of supporting their child's academic achievements.
- BCSD will develop a Parent Engagement Team (PET) which will consist of parents, staff and volunteers to implement strategies and activities as needed to support academic support and achievement for students on each grade level. Information regarding PET will be presented to ALL parents before October 1st of the school term. The PET meetings dates, times, and locations will be posted on the district's website and posted on the district's social media pages.

## Building Capacity

- BCSD will work through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress and information regarding the Title I program. BCSD will provide opportunities for parents to gain knowledge about the Georgia Standards of Excellence and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and times for these opportunities will be posted on the district website, posted on social media pages, and shared through each Title I school.
- BCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's parental involvement programs with state funded preschool and Head Start programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on parent engagement activities. Pre-K and Kindergarten transitioning workshops will be provided for parents and BCS will send district wide fliers and promotional materials with information for parents at the beginning of the year and will follow up as those events draw closer.
- BCSD will conduct trainings during the school year for staff and discuss strategies to increase parent engagement, improve school-family communication and build ties with parents and the community. BCSD will further conduct sessions with appropriate school faculty and staff on creating welcoming environments and two-way communication with families. BCSD will establish a Parent Engagement Team to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and partners will be invited to serve on the team.



## Annual Evaluation

Each year, BCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the Parent Engagement Team meetings. Beginning in March, each Title I school will distribute a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be shared using Thrillshare, our parent communication system, for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the Parent Engagement Team meetings to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. BCSD will use the findings from the team meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.



### Title I Parent Information Nights:

- NBES: August 29, 2023      Prerecorded
- QES: September 8, 2023      5:30 pm
- BCMS: October 3, 2023      5:30 p.m.
- BCHS: September 5, 2023      Prerecorded
- DIS: September 19, 2023      5:30 p.m.

(Presentations will be posted on the school websites the following day.)

### Parent Engagement Meetings:

- Monthly meetings will be provided by each school in BCSD based on survey data and school improvement goals.

### Parenting With Purpose Events:

- Quarterly events to equip parents with tools to support their Trojans

### Annual Parent Survey:

- March 2024

Coffee & Conversations with the Principals 2023-2024		
Monthly Meeting Locations Will Be Shared Each Month		
August 8, 2023	4:45 - 5:45	What's in Store for 23-24? <i>Guest: Assistant Principals</i>
September 12, 2023	8:30 - 9:30	Attendance Counts! <i>Guest: Counselors</i>
October 10, 2023	4:45 - 5:45	Navigating Technology <i>Guest: Media Specialists</i>
November 14, 2023	8:30 - 9:30	Parent Engagement Matters! <i>Guest: Parent Engagement Coordinators</i>
January 9, 2024	4:45 - 5:45	School Safety <i>Guest: School Resource Officers</i>
February 13, 2024	8:30 - 9:30	Community Resources <i>Guest: School Social Workers</i>
March 12, 2024	4:45 - 5:45	GMAS Resources <i>Guest: Assistant Principals</i>
April 9, 2024	8:30 - 9:30	Year in Review <i>Guest: District Directors / CLIP Team</i>
May 14, 2024	4:45 - 5:45	Summer Learning <i>Guest: EDOES Site Directors</i>



This policy will be in effect for the 2023-2024 school year. The policy will be distributed in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before November 1, 2023.



This policy is revised yearly with the input of parents and stakeholders.

