

Candler County School System
Parental Involvement Policy
Title I: No Child Left Behind
FY 2005

The Candler County School System 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 one 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.

1. The Candler County School System 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:

An LEA parent committee will be appointed. This committee will meet annually to develop the district policy or to revise the district policy. At the meeting, plan requirements will be explained, a sample plan will be presented containing the required components, and the LEA plan will be developed/revised based on the input of attending parents.

2. The Candler County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

School councils are an integral part of the A+ Education Reform Act of 2000. According to the Act, the mission of school councils is to "bring communities and schools closer together in the spirit of cooperation to solve difficult education problems, improve academic achievement, provide support for teachers and administrators, and bring parents into the school-based decision-making process." School councils are to provide "advice, recommendations, and assistance and represent the community of parents and businesses." In support of School Councils, the Candler County School System has a designated person who provides training for new school council members as well as technical assistance/training on topics as requested by the School Council and as identified by the school administrators or by central office

personnel. Each school has a School Council that meets regularly to focus on the following:

- Understanding the school improvement plan
- Reviewing curriculum and assessments
- Analyzing student achievement data
- Participating in the principal selection process
- Communicating with and involving parents
- Mobilizing the community for school improvement

The 2004 Georgia General Assembly amended the school council law to provide flexibility in membership, chairmanship, meetings, elections and trainings. The changes also provide clarity that school councils are to focus on student achievement and school improvement.

3. The Candler County School System 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:

Central office personnel will coordinate/communicate regularly with administrators and teachers to keep them apprised of curriculum updates, testing information, federal guidelines, professional development opportunities, and other relevant topics in order to provide school personnel with information they need to communicate to parents. In addition, central office personnel will be available to meet with school personnel and parents as requested to provide technical assistance, support, and/or training.

4. The Candler County School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Pre-Kindergarten program, Head Start, Parents as Teachers:

- Candler County School System provides a facility for Head Start. Parents are invited and encouraged to participate in all parental involvement activities that occur in the system.
- Teachers share teaching strategies and ways to differentiate instruction at parent-teacher conferences. This affects all the programs listed above.

5. The Candler County School System 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.

To carry out such an evaluation, the school district, in conjunction with participating parents, may develop methods for:

- A. comparing levels of parental participation prior to and following implementation of the newly required policy;
- B. determining whether the levels of participation of parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background are represented in adequate proportions;
- C. identifying barriers to greater participation by these groups;
- D. assessing the effectiveness of parental participation activities, procedures, and policy in the improvement of schools;
- E. reporting evaluation findings; and
- F. using evaluation findings to revise school-level policy so that it promotes more specifically the improvement of student academic achievement, the social and emotional welfare of students, and the school's teaching and learning environment.

The evaluation may include any of the above or other criteria determined by the district parent involvement committee.

6. The Candler County School System 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 schools 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

To carry out this assistance, the district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, select an effective delivery model. Examples of delivery methods might

include parent training sessions, newspaper articles, web-based announcements/training and other activities deemed appropriate for the information to be disseminated.

B. The school district 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:

- Offering training sessions
- Providing materials
- Building schedules for parent conferences
- Providing a welcoming and supportive climate

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:

- Providing professional learning opportunities on communicating with parents
- Analyzing parental involvement evaluations with school personnel and setting goals related to the feedback provided by parents through the evaluation process

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

- Maintaining regular communication regarding curriculum, testing, instruction
- Providing access to parent training materials and parent training opportunities

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:

- Providing written information, to the extent practicable, in the language of the parents as well as in English

- Providing an interpreter in order that information that cannot be put into a written format may be communicated orally to parents

ADOPTION

This Districtwide 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 agenda and sign-in sheet.

This policy was adopted by the Candler County School System on October 21, 2004 and will be in effect for the period of FY 2005. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 30, 2004.

Joan Blackwood
(Signature of Authorized Official)
October 21, 2004
(Date)