



Buford City School System
Parent and Family Engagement Policy **2022-2023**
Revised **June 6, 2022**

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 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.
- (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 **1116** of the ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Buford City School System (BCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools.

This plan will describe BCSS'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**, the BCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section **1116(b)** and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section **1116(d)** of the ESSA.





Strengthening Our School

This year, the district Title I coordinator (TOC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the TOC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the TOC will hold monthly meetings and training with its Title I schools' principals and school TOCs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

The BCSS will reserve 1 percent of the Title I, Part A allocation (when more than \$500,000) for parent and family engagement and will distribute not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent of these funds to schools, with priority given to high need schools. Parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I, Part A shall be involved in the decisions regarding how the set-aside is allotted for parental involvement activities.

Jointly Developed

During the annual Title I meeting in July, all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the **2022-2023** school year. The district will send an electronic communication to all parents informing them about this meeting and post an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also review and discuss the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy is incorporated into the CLIP which is submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school. All feedback will be included with the policy for this school year. The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultations

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

State of the District Meeting **Spring 2023**

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Buford City School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the **2023-2024** school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be electronically communicated to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

School Improvement Forums - Spring 2023

Each Title I school will host opportunities for parents and family members to participate in round table discussions to review the targeted assisted or schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Notices regarding this Forum will be emailed and texted to all parents in advance of the Forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites. Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Building Capacity

The BCSS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through district-wide activities and programs.

Parents

The BCSS will work as a district and 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, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The BCSS will provide opportunities for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students. The dates and locations for these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through each school's newsletter. The BCSS will also coordinate pages on the district and or school websites that will contain resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. Technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital education resources.

School Staff

The BCSS will conduct monthly training during the school year for principals and school TOC's to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events. The BCSS communications Director will disseminate information to parents using multiple methods of communication such as text blasts, emails, and social media posts. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, social media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.





Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the BCSS 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 school Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, the district will provide an opportunity for parents to complete a survey that provides valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. Each Title I school will also facilitate School Improvement forums so parents of Title I eligible children have an opportunity to provide input.

The BCSS will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Title I Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services 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.

Calendar of Events for Parents

Annual Title I Meeting July 21, 2022

Annual Parent Survey April 2023

School Improvement Forum Spring 2023 (Local school site)

State of the District Spring 2023 (District Central Office)

For Schools

Monthly Training Meetings

Adoption

This district-wide parent and family engagement policy has been developed based on parent and stakeholder input as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was revised by the Buford City School System and will be in effect for the **2022-2023** academic school year.

The school system will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September **2022**.