LEA Parental Involvement Plan

DeKalb County Board of Education

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The DeKalb 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 LEA parental involvement plan 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 LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

1. The Dekalb County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
    - Provide volunteer opportunities
    - Solicit committee memberships
    - Administer parent surveys (results will be used to implement the Parental Involvement Plan for the subsequent year)
    - Schedule conference opportunities
    - Annual evaluation participation

2. The DeKalb 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:
    - Parent Advisory Committee Activities
    - Parent Involvement Committee Activities
    - School Improvement Presentations
    - Advisory Council Committee
3. The **DeKalb 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:
    - Parent Day activities
    - Parental Compacts
    - Workshops on parenting skills for LEP parents
    - Individual parent meetings
4. The DeKalb County School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

    - Pre-Kindergarten programs
    - Head Start
    - Employ translators that travel to schools throughout the district to translate parent meetings, translate newsletters, forms, and letters.
    - The Migrant Home Liaison provides in home pre-school activities and promotes family literacy

5. The **DeKalb 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 plan 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 plan 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.
    - Each year all parents in Title I school-wide schools participate in a parent survey. This survey was created to address and include all items required by federal guidelines. Surveys are translated into the primary language of limited English proficient parents, and parent volunteers and translators will also assist with gathering responses. Survey results will be analyzed at the school level and then an analysis provided to the district Federal Programs Director. The district Federal Programs Director will then analyze data for the entire system to guide revisions to the district Title I plan and Parental Involvement Plan. Schools will use their data in revisions to their school plans. Survey results will be shared with advisory councils at the district and school levels and through the annual required parent meeting at each school.

1. The **DeKalb County School System** 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:
- Schedule parent conference, PTO presentations, homework techniques and standardized test breakdown sessions.
- Title I / Parents-Right-To-Know
- Schools will conduct workshop(s) on content standards, achievement, and assessment as needed. Schools will be required to address these topics at one of the following events: PTO, Open House, or parent conferences.

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:

- Recruiting Read Across America parent and community volunteers for reading day. Parent Involvement Committee sponsors workshops featuring children's books.
- Encourage PTO to offer workshops.
- Budgeting funds at the school level to purchase materials.

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:

- *During the first semester of each school year, the school district will provide all teachers and administrators with an overview of Title I and Parental Involvement.*
- *Following an initial overview, bulitins outlining more indepth Title I and parental involvement components will be provided to all teachers and administrators.*
- *District representatives will work with school principals to co-facilitate Title I Parent Meetings.*

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:

- Kindergarten orientation
- Migrant Home Liaison will provide in home pre-school instruction and family literacy
- Coordinating community educational family nights to support learning
- Modeling effective strategies for working with young children academically
- Providing locations for Adult ESL classes to be taught on school campuses.
- Hosting ELL parent meetings in conjunction with the Alabama Cooperative Extension Center to provide instruction in parenting skills and family literacy.

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:

- Documents are translated by translators employed by the school system.
- Forms, newsletters and schedules are sent out to keep parents informed in their primary language.
- Post meeting announcements on district and school websites
- Communicate information through email, school marquees and local newspaper
- School messenger phone system is used to notify parents of meetings, upcoming events, and announcements. Messages are delivered in parents' primary language.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS (Sample Template)

NOTE: The LEA Parental Involvement plan may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a LEA parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

PART IV. APPROVAL

This LEA Parental Involvement plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by _____ _____. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before _____.

_____ _____

PLAN APPROVED BY (*Person or Entity*) DATE OF APPROVAL