



**Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
Jasper County Charter System
School Year 2020-21
Revision Date October 1, 2020**

PART I

In recognition of the importance of parent involvement/engagement in the education process of children, the Jasper County School System affirms and assures the rights of parents of children being served in activities funded by Title I, Section 1118 (a)(2), ESEA opportunities to participate in the design and implementation of these activities. The Jasper County School System will use resources provided to plan and implement effective parent involvement. The goal of this Parent Involvement Policy/Plan is to raise student achievement through increased parental involvement, a minimum of 1% of Title I funds are allocated to be set aside for this purpose.

The Jasper County School System adopted the Parent Teacher Association's (PTA's) National Standards for Family-School Partnerships to implement the following legal requirements:

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT-WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Jasper County Charter 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:

1) Provide parents' access to the Parent & Family Engagement Plan by posting it on the schools and district websites; 2) Distribute the plan at the Title I meetings and other school activities; 3) Provide copies at the centralized registration desk; 4) Inform parents- in multiple ways - of the opportunities to provide feedback to the plan; 5) Host a community forum

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

1) Each school will host a Title I annual meeting to provide parents an opportunity to provide input on the Parent & Family Engagement Plan; 2) Provide dates of PTO and/or School Governance Team meetings where Title I Surveys will be given out for ALL parents to have an opportunity to provide feedback on the policy/plan.

3. The Jasper County Charter 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:

1) Jasper County Charter System has a full time Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) to coordinate parent and family engagement opportunities at the district and school level. 2) Employ a Title I Administrative Coordinator (Consultant) to provide guidance to the FEC, Principals and the schools; 3) Monthly meetings and trainings are scheduled to provide guidance on the Title I requirements and plans for

parent and family engagement activities.4) A meeting is held with the FEC and Executive Director of Federal Programs to review and evaluate all Title I plans.

4. The Jasper County Charter School System will coordinate and integrate parent engagement, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: such as: Head Start, Family Connections, Jasper County Mentor Program, and parent resource centers that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by: 1) Including the Pre-K Parent Involvement Coordinator in monthly meetings with FEC; 2) Invite Pre-K parents and students to all Jasper County Primary School and district-wide Title I activities; 3) provide ALL parents and students with strong transition plans to ease student anxieties and set new expectations.

5. The Jasper County Charter School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement and engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent engagement 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 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. 1) End-of year Title I Surveys sent home to ALL parents; 2) Contract interpreter to translate End-of-year Title I surveys; 3) Ask parents to complete district-wide activities surveys; 4) Allow parents an opportunity to provide feedback on school activities; 5) Afford ALL parents an opportunity to provide feedback on ALL Parent Involvement plans by distributing announcements of activities in multiple ways.

6. The Jasper County Charter School System 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: 1) Contract with a translator to translate for our non-English speaking households, as needed; 2) During the monthly meetings, monitor language used for flyers and memos sent home to parents; 3) Provide technical assistance to schools, as needed.

National PTA's Standards for Family-School Partnerships - The JCSS Parent Involvement Policy/Plan acknowledges the six National Standards for Family-School Partnerships in an effort to build/increase parent capacity:

- Standard I: Welcoming all Families-Parents are welcome in the schools, and their support and assistance are sought. Standard II: Communicating Effectively- Communication between home and school is regular, two-way, and meaningful.
- Standard III: Supporting Student Success-Families and school staff collaborate on a continuous basis to support student learning.
- Standard IV: Speaking up for Every Child-Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children.
- Standard V: Sharing Power-Parents are full partners in the decisions that affect children and families.

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Jasper County Charter System** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Jasper County Charter System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English

proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format 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 ESSA, 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 be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

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) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED
LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Jasper County Charter System** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

The Jasper County Charter System provides many opportunities for parents and families to be involved in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan, the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), and the School Wide Improvement Plan:

- *During the spring, all parents are invited to participate in a meeting to provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2019-2020 school year. Flyers in both English and Spanish are sent to all parents along with school and district website posting, call outs, and Monticello News articles informing parents, families, and community stakeholders about this meeting.*
- *During these meetings, the CLIP and the School Wide Improvement Plan are also discussed.*
- *A translator is available at the meetings to assist parents with limited English proficiency.*
- *Feedback forms are also provided for parents to offer suggestions during the meetings or at any time during the year.*
- *The plans and Feedback Forms are available at all parent meetings throughout the school year. Also, the plans are posted on each school's website and in the Parent Resource Centers of each school, and in the Jasper County Board of Education centralized registration desk.*
- *All feedback from parents is taken into consideration as the plan is revised annually.*
- *Plans are included in the Beginning of the Year Packets and distributed to all parents. Plans are also available on the District Website, Parent Resource Centers, and Jasper County Board of Education Office.*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Jasper County Charter System** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

Jasper County Charter System provides assistance and support to all Title 1 schools to ensure parent and family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented:

- *A yearly supplement is provided for a Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator (FEP) at each school and a Title 1 Administrative Coordinator (Consultant) is employed to provide guidance to the FEPs, Principals, and the schools.*
- *Monthly meetings and trainings with the FEPs from each school are scheduled to provide guidance on the Title 1 requirements and plans for parent and family engagement activities.*
- *The district budget allows for FEPs to attend the Georgia Parent and Family Engagement Conference and/or District Parent and Family Engagement Meetings in order to stay abreast of all pertinent information.*
- *A meeting is held for all FEPs before all Title I plans are reviewed and evaluated at the district level.*
- *The district FEP provides additional support to improve and strengthen parent and family engagement through emails and school visits.*
- *The district assists in planning Parent and Family Engagement Forums that benefit all parents of all schools to improve student academic achievement and school performance.*
- *The district FEP consults with community stakeholders to provide coordination of services and programs.*

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Jasper County Charter System** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Jasper County Charter System conducts an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan:

- *The district will conduct End-of-the-Year Title I Surveys (using guidelines/questions suggested from the Georgia Department of Education). These surveys will be posted online on the school and district websites. Hard copies will be provided to ALL parents who request such. Translations will also be made available upon request.*
- *Parents and families are notified of the surveys and encouraged to participate through a variety of methods such as call outs, website announcements, parent meetings, and Monticello News articles.*
- *An annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan in improving the academic quality of the schools is held each spring during parent and family meetings and with feedback forms.*
- *ALL parents and families will be afforded an opportunity to provide feedback during the spring when ALL stakeholders are invited to participate in a meeting in order to provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement plan. Flyers in both English and Spanish are sent to all parents along with school and district website posting, call outs, and Monticello News articles informing them about this meeting. A translator is available at the meetings to assist families with limited English proficiency.*
- *The Parent and Family Engagement Plan is also available during the month of May for parent and community stakeholder feedback in the Jasper County Board of Education Office.*
- *After surveys and feedback forms have been completed the results are analyzed by a committee comprised of school, family, and community members and (based on the results) suggestions for revisions are made and strategies are designed to provide more effective parent and family engagement.*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Jasper County Charter System** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

The Jasper County Charter System reserves not less than 1% of its Title I, Part A allocation for parent and family engagement unless the allocation is \$500,000 or less to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan; and the district ensures that not less than 90% of the 1% reserved goes directly to support the school parent and family engagement programs and activities.

Funds reserved by the district shall be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with the Policy, including not less than one of the following:

- *Supporting schools and nonprofit organizations in providing professional development for district and school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies, which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members.*
- *Supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school.*
- *Disseminating information on best practices focused on parent and family engagement, especially best practices for increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members.*
- *Collaborating, or providing sub grants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving and increasing parent and family engagement*

- *Parents and families are informed of the 1% reserved allocation during the Title I Annual Meeting.*
- *Parents and families are involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved are allotted for parent and family engagement activities during the meetings in the spring when the Parent and Family Engagement Plans are reviewed and input is given. Notification of meetings is provided in multiple ways.*
- *Annual surveys will contain questions related to the parent and family engagement budget as well as a section for parents and families to provide their comments.*
- *Suggestions will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year.*

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Jasper County Charter System** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: **such as: Head Start, Family Connections, Jasper County Mentor Program, and parent resource centers** that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Jasper County Charter System coordinates with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families:

- *The Pre-K Parent Involvement Coordinator is included in all monthly meetings with the FEPs.*
- *Pre-K parents and students are invited to all Jasper County Primary School and district-wide Title I activities.*
- *Strong transition plans are provided to ALL parents and students to ease student anxieties and set new expectations.*
- *Jasper County Charter System schools partner with Family Connections to sponsor parent and family activities such as The Back To School Rally and with the ML&J Fund for Children to provide school supplies for at risk students.*
- *The Jasper County Mentor program supports students who are most at risk by providing mentors and extra activities that support academic achievement.*
- *Jasper County Charter System schools partner with FERST Readers to provide books for preschool age children.*
- *Parent Resource Centers are located in each school to provide resources to support parents and families in helping their students' academic success and to provide computer access for ALL parents and families.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Jasper County Charter System** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators

Jasper County Charter System works with and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents to improve their children's academic achievement in a variety of ways:

- *The district will work directly with the schools to host parent and family forums to provide assistance in understanding The Georgia Standards of Excellence, the Georgia Milestones, the Measures of Academic Progress reports, the Title I Part A Requirements, strategies to support their child's academic progress, and ways to partner with teachers to support their child's academic achievements. The dates and locations for these forums will be posted in multiple ways.*
- *The district will provide a page on the district website containing resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these resources will be provided at each school for parents with limited internet access.*
- *Funding will be provided for each school for monthly Parent Newsletters.*
- *The district will work with the technology department to sponsor a parent workshop to assist parents in understanding how to use the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus and to educate parents and families about the harms of copyright piracy. The date and location for this workshop will be posted in multiple ways.*
- *The district will assist schools with math workshops to help parents and families at home.*
- *An interpreter will be provided at meetings as needed.*
- *Meetings will be held at various locations and times to encourage parent participation.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

Jasper County Charter System provides training and resources to educate its teachers and staff on how to partner with parents to increase student achievement:

- *The district will provide training and resources to the FEPs during the monthly meetings. These trainings will include topics such as instruction in the value and utility of contributions of parents, how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, and how to implement and coordinate parent programs in order to build ties between home and school.*
- *The FEPs will redeliver these trainings during their schools' faculty and staff meetings throughout the school year.*
- *The district will support all schools in providing information in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Translations and interpreters will be provided upon request when practicable.*
- *The district will encourage FEPs to include parents in their school trainings.*

- *The district will include trainings **and** activities that respond to suggestions given by parents in the yearly surveys and feedback received from any parent meetings or communications.*

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The **Jasper County Charter System** will include these additional discretionary activities that the district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build capacity:

- *Involving parents, when at all possible, in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training. These trainings will be held during school faculty and staff meetings. Parents will assist with the planning of these meetings and will also participate in the meetings when practical.*
- *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. The Jasper County Charter System has adopted literacy as one of the focus areas for the 2020-2021 school year.*
- *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. As funds are available the district will assist with these expenses during the Parent Forums.*
- *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. Parent and Family Engagement Forums will be scheduled at various locations throughout the county in an attempt to include ALL parents and families. Times and dates will be chosen to maximize attendance.*
- *Establishing a LEA parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs. The School Governance Teams will serve in this capacity.*
- *Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities. The system's partnership with Family Connections provides coordination of these entities.*

The **Jasper County Charter System's Parent and Family Engagement Plan** acknowledges the six **National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships** in an effort to build/increase parent capacity.

ACCESSIBILITY

The **Jasper County Charter System**, to the extent practicable, shall provide opportunities for the informed participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand.

ADOPTION

This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, community stakeholders, school, and district personnel at the Spring Parent Forum and through participation in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment process.

This policy was adopted by the **Jasper County Charter System** and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **November 1, 2020**.