

**Bulloch County School System
Parental Involvement Policy
2010-2011**

A major goal of the Bulloch County School System program is to encourage greater involvement of parents in the education of their children by developing strong partnerships with teachers, principals, other staff, the community and their school. The Board shall solicit parental involvement through the implementation of programs, activities and procedures designed to enhance the involvement of parents in the educational process. Such activities shall be planned and implemented with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

The Bulloch County School System is committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. The child benefits if the school and home form a partnership promoting high expectations for our children. Parents are their children's first teachers. Parents' support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way. The Bulloch County School System will include parents in all aspects of the district's Title I program. The goal is to promote a strong school-home partnership that will help all students in the district succeed.

Part I. General Expectations

The Bulloch County School System affirms and assures the right of parents and guardians of children attending Title I schools in the district under Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). The Bulloch 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 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 1 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.*

- The school district will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center in the State.

Part II. Implementation

1. The Bulloch County School System will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental involvement policy under section 1112 of the ESEA:

All parents and teachers of eligible Title I children will be invited to an annual public meeting held during the spring of each year. The annual public meeting will provide an opportunity to those parents and teachers to have input into the design and implementation of the Title I project and provide parents an opportunity to establish mechanisms for maintaining ongoing communications among parents, teachers, and agency officials. In addition, parents will have the opportunity to be involved in the Title I program in the following ways: Surveys, Conferences, Parent Compacts, and School Councils.

2. The Bulloch 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:
 - a. School-Parent Compact
 - b. Notify each child's parents of the results of the annual school review of adequate yearly progress (AYP) for parental input opportunities on the school improvement plan.
 - c. Notify parents that a school has been identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The notification will include the following elements:
 - i. Explanation of what identification means and how the school compares to other Bulloch County schools.
 - ii. The reason for the identification.
 - iii. What the school is doing to address the problems identified.
 - iv. How parents can become involved in addressing the school's academic problems
 - v. The parents' options regarding their right to seek a transfer of their children or to seek supplemental services.
 - d. Report child's progress to his/her parents.
 - e. Provide information concerning the Title I program.
 - f. Conduct parent-teacher conferences and open house at schools.
 - g. Provide opportunity for parent input in future program development
 - h. Disseminate results of evaluation and school report card.
 - i. Provide opportunities for parent literacy training.

- j. Provide home activities to reinforce learning.
 - k. Ensure that notice is made in “an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand”.
 - l. Provide information to parents regarding the professional qualification of the child’s teacher at the beginning of each school year.
 - m. Provide timely notice to parents if the child is being taught by a teacher who is not highly qualified for four or more consecutive weeks.
 - n. Collect all non-satisfactory parents’ comments regarding school plans.
3. The Bulloch 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:

The Federal Programs Director and Parent Liaisons will

- a. Offer assistance in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs.
 - b. Provide assistance to parents of participating Title I children in understanding topics such as the state’s academic content and achievement standards, the assessments being used, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor their children’s progress and work with educators to improve their achievement.
 - c. Provide materials and training (such as literacy training and training on how to use technology) to help parents work with their children to improve achievement.
 - d. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, with the assistance of parents, 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 the schools.
 - e. Collaborate and integrate, to the extent feasible and appropriate, parental involvement programs with other programs such as Early Intervention Program (EIP), counselors, Pre-K Program, Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) institutions, Head Start, Homeless, Drug Free Schools, Adult Education, and/or Even Start/Family Literacy to integrate parent involvement strategies and programs.
 - f. Ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
 - g. Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.
4. The Bulloch County School System will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Title I, Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs:

Early Intervention Program (EIP), State Pre-K Program, Neglected & Delinquent (N&D) institutions, Head Start, Homeless, Drug Free Schools, and/or Even Start/Family Literacy

5. The Bulloch 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 parent involvement policy will be reviewed annually by school officials, parents and teachers. Schools will analyze the effectiveness of the policy in increasing participation of parents through numbers of conferences and attendance at parent functions, participation in home-school instruction activities, and increased student achievement.

If barriers to greater participation (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) are identified, strategies will be designed and implemented to help increase participation of parents.

Programs/Activities

There are 9 elementary schools, 3 middle schools, and 1 middle/high school within the Bulloch County School system currently served by Title I. All schools are Schoolwide Title I schools. Activities are planned throughout the year at both the system level and at the individual schools. Efforts are made to provide equal opportunities and experiences throughout the system while also providing opportunities that meet the unique needs and challenges of each school.

Parent involvement personnel help to plan and provide support for schools in developing and implementing each school's parent involvement program. Activities are planned to provide meaningful experiences to attract parents and grandparents while offering a variety of instructional and social experiences such as:

- Open House
- ESOL Parent Night
- Back to School Family Night
- Internet Bullying Workshop for Parents
- Math and Science Family Night
- Family Budgeting and Effective Parenting Program for Parents
- Family Health and Fitness Night
- Doughnuts for Dads
- Wellness Clinic for Family and Faculty
- CRCT for Parents
- Family Reading Night
- Middle School Expectations
- 9th Grade Orientation Parent Meeting
- Homework, Habits and Hugs
- Grandparents Day: Make It/Take It (Math Manipulatives)
- Parents in Education Celebration
- Title I Meeting
- RIF
- Boohoo Breakfast
- Family MAP Connection Night
- Parent Advisory Meet and Greet
- Family Accelerated Reading Night
- Christmas Around the World
- Family Technology Night
- Family Reading Night
- Family Flight Night
- Family Outreach Picnic
- Literacy Fun Fair
- Family & Friends CPR Training
- PTO "Look at Us" Night
- Superman Day
- Mommy & Me Lunch & Listen

- Real Men Read Day
- Read Across America Day
- Red Ribbon Week
- Make It/Take it Workshops
- Mentoring Programs (parent and community)

Communication with parents concerning school events and activities is delivered through a variety of media: school newsletters, school websites, district website, flyers, brochures, district phone call-out system, and publicity through various news media. Frequent and positive school-to-home communication (phone calls, progress reports, conferences, personal notes and home visits) helps the parent feel more comfortable with the school environment and more likely to be involved. If needed, child care and transportation are provided for programs, workshops, or parent activities. Parent Liaisons frequently assist parents with obtaining necessary medical, vision or hearing assistance.

To further support parental involvement in the schools, Parent Resource Centers will be created, equipped, and maintained at each of the Title I schools to provide resources that parents may use to provide academic support and assistance for their child at home.

ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages) teachers serve students at both Title I and non-Title I as needed. This program provides instructional services to students and also assists parents to help them understand the services provided, assessments used, and progress expected of students. Interpreters are available as needed. Each school provides full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Information and school reports will be provided as required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and, to the extent practicable, in a language understandable to parents.

The Bulloch County School System will coordinate its Title I, Part A program with programs under Title II of the ESEA to provide professional development for teachers, principals, and when appropriate, to parents and other staff. The system will inform parents of their right to request information about the professional qualifications of both teachers and paraprofessionals at their respective schools.

Adoption:

The District-wide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the joint collaboration of the development of this system policy.

System Personnel:

Monica S. Lanier, Federal Programs Director
Joyce Simmons, Parent Involvement Coordinator
Sherry Jordan, Parent Liaison
Leslie Wiggins, Parent Liaison
Paula Williams, Parent Liaison