

Pelham City Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

2021-2022
Revised June 17, 2021
203 Mathewson Ave.
Pelham, GA 31779
www.pelham-city.k12.ga.us



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:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Plan

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Pelham City School District (PCS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan 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 our schools. This plan describes the ways that Pelham City Schools will engage families in the education of their children and build the capacity in its Title I schools (all PCS schools are Title I School-wide Programs) to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to help students reach district, school, and individual 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 substantial family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district/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. Since all PCS schools are Title I School-wide Programs, Pelham City Schools will work to ensure that the required district parent and family engagement plan meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each includes a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year, Pelham City Schools sought input from parents regarding the Parent and Family Engagement Program. In April 2021, parents were given a survey to complete as part of the Comprehensive Needs Assessment process. The survey was available through a QR code and website link so that it would be very convenient for parents. A hard copy was also available if needed. Because the survey was offered digitally, the survey was sent as a flyer with a QR code, through email and Remind, and posted on the school Facebook and website. The PCS 2020-2021 school year was very different due to the Covid-19 pandemic; however several opportunities had been given for parents to share input into the District/School Parent Engagement Plan. Results from the annual parent survey, Parent Chat discussions and input surveys (held as virtual meetings through Google Meets and Zoom), the monthly digital newsletter that includes input opportunities imbedded in it and two Parent Academies held virtually on Facebook Live were vehicles for gathering parent and community input into the revision and development of Parent Involvement Combined School and District Plan, Parent/Student/School Compacts, and District/School Improvement Plans.

Normally the Title I Spring Meeting and Volunteer Celebration in May and the final Parent Chat in April are also places where all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2021-2022 school year. These meetings were announced at the fall Title I Annual meetings at each school, along with a list of parent activities for the school year. Due to the ongoing situation for schools with the Covid-19 pandemic, parents and community were still only given opportunity to revise and review documents in an online platform through the school website and Parent Engagement Remind. Additionally, stakeholders will have a final opportunity in June 2021 to review and give feedback regarding the Title I documents, including the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, Student-Parent-School Compacts, and District Improvement Plan, via an online platform on the PCS website which will be advertised via Facebook, One Call Now messaging system, the PCS website, and Parent Engagement Remind.

Upon final revision, the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan will be incorporated into the CLIP and submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the district website or by submitting written comments to their child's school.

The district Parent and Family Engagement Plan was posted on district and school websites, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings earlier this school year, and made available in the schools' parent resource centers.



Strengthening Our Schools

This year the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator (PFEC) will provide assistance and support to PCS schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. All PCS schools will receive notifications and resources from the PFEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the PFEC, with the help of the Director of Teaching and Learning, will hold monthly meetings and trainings with principals to review family engagement plans and activities.

Reservation of Funds

Due to the CARES Act and other supplemental funding allocated to Pelham City Schools during the pandemic, PCS may be required to set aside 1% of all Title I funds received for parent and family engagement; however, Pelham City Schools has already begun to involve parents in decisions about how the Title I funds it receives in FY22 are spent, especially regarding the spending of funds for parent and family engagement activities. Parents are asked for their input throughout the year at various events in the form of program evaluation questionnaires.

Technical Assistance

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each school in planning effective parent and family engagement activities and in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. PCS will use feedback from school Parent Chats, including the final district Parent Academy in May, and our Title I Spring Meeting for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school levels. Feedback received from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and the corresponding budget.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Engagement



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 are invited to attend feedback opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students reach our student academic achievement goals.

Parent Chats- input meetings through the 2021-2022 school year

Opportunities for parents to give input into the parent involvement program and building staff capacity.

Spring Title 1 Meeting- April 2022

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from Pelham City Schools as well as review and provide input into the district Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the 2021-2022 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home with all students, posted on Facebook, posted in Remind and the school websites, and published in the local newspaper in advance.

Final Parent Chat Lunch- May 2022

A final Parent Chat entitled “Plan for Success” will be held for ALL parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the District Improvement Plans, and the PCS Family Engagement Plans, as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each school will send invitations home and call parents. In addition, the event, to include the date and time of the meeting, will be posted on Facebook and the school websites, displayed on flyers in the schools and around town, and published in the newspaper.

PCS Community Forum January 2022

Community Forum meeting in which input is gathered for the PCS Parent Engagement Program.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support parent and 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.



Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.pelham-city.k12.ga.us to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input. You can also visit the PCS Parent Involvement Resource Center located on the PES campus or contact the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator at 294-8170 ext. 214, 221-2336 or via email csmith@pelham-city.k12.ga.us

Building Capacity

Pelham City Schools will build school and parent capacity for strong family engagement. This capacity will ensure effective involvement of parents and family members in supporting partnerships among the Title I schools, parents, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement. The following district-wide activities and programs will be used: Parent Academy and the PCS Parent Involvement Resource Center (PIRC). Pelham City Schools hosts Parent Academies each year which are designed to be a resource for families and the community to support involvement, increase student achievement and enhance parenting skills. The PIRC's hours of operation and list of resources are posted at each school, on the district website, and in each school handbook.

Of Parents – Pelham City Schools will work as a district 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. PCS will provide Annual Title I Meetings, Parent Academy, Parent Chats, Community Forums and the Parent Involvement Resource Center for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students, including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these workshops/meetings will be posted on the district website and shared through newsletters as well as flyers, newspapers, Facebook, Remind texts, and phone calls.

PCS will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, 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 other languages. PCS will host other workshops for parents based on the needs identified in the Comprehensive Needs Assessment and parent surveys. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each individual school.

PCS has established a district-wide Parent Advisory Council, comprised of parent representatives from each school, through Parent Chats and the PCS Volunteer Program to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Parent Chats and the Volunteer Program welcome all parents including community leaders and business partners. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by supporting and assisting with Parent Academy.

PCS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool programs and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, Pelham Elementary School would normally host Kindergarten Transition Day so parents may tour the school and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. However due to the current circumstances and covid-19 restrictions, PCS will share transition information along with the virtual Pre-K Closing Program and will offer an opportunity before school begins in the fall for students in transitional grades to tour the school. PCS will also coordinate with other programs and resource centers to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

Of School Staff – PCS will conduct trainings during the school year (at least twice per semester) for principals and staff at each school to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. The Parent and Family Engagement Staff will disseminate appropriate parent engagement strategies through emails and webinars. PCS will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, a district newsletter will be sent home from each school. In addition, information will be sent through the Remind messaging system and posted online 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. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, Remind, and other school messaging systems to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, in an effort to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools, PCS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the family engagement activities. The evaluation is conducted through an annual parent survey and parent meetings.

In the spring, schools announce the beginning of the survey and post a link to the survey for parents on the district and school websites. In addition, a QR code and survey link flyer for the survey is sent home, posted on Facebook, sent through email and Remind, and posted on the doors of the school and in town. The survey is a

tool parents can use to share feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. In addition to the annual survey, each school will use the Parent Chats, Parent Academy, and other events and discussions to identify the needs parents of Title I students have in order to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

PCS will use the findings from the input opportunities and the survey results to design strategies to improve family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its Parent and Family Engagement Plans.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Special Education and ESOL Departments 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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Title 1 Annual Meetings

PHS September 14, 2021

PES September 28, 2021

PCMS October 12, 2021

Community Work Session

January 2022

Annual Parent Survey

March 2022

Spring Title 1 Meeting

April 28, 2022

PES Cafeteria

System Parent Chats

December 3, 2021

March 11, 2022

May 20, 2022

In the Parent Inv. Resource Center

For Schools

Welcoming Schools Training

Pre-Planning for Teachers
& Staff July 21, 2021

Principal and Directors Meetings

Second Tuesday of each
month

Adoption

This district-wide Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, community stakeholders and district personnel through input meetings, online feedback.

This plan was adopted by the Pelham City School District on June 17, 2021, and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of Title I, Part A children during the first two weeks of the fall semester.