

International Community School
*Parent and Family Engagement Policy
for Shared Student Success*
2019–2020 School Year



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What is Title I?

ICS is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

What is the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

This is a policy that describes how our school will provide opportunities to improve parent and family engagement that will support student learning at school and at home. All students and their families are invited and encouraged to fully participate in the opportunities described in this policy. Our school will provide information and as many opportunities as possible for the participation of all parents and family members.

How is the policy developed and revised?

The policy is jointly developed with parents, school staff, students, and community members. It is reviewed and revised annually during Title I Stakeholder's Input Meetings. A draft of the updated policy is available for additional input during the document review period. All feedback forms from the Title I Stakeholder's Input Meetings are submitted to the Title I Office for review. Opportunities are also available for all stakeholders to provide input into the Continuous School Improvement Plan (CSIP), School-Family Compact, building capacity of school staff, and the family engagement 1% set-aside budget.

Where is the policy available?

The policy is available online on our school's Title I webpage located at www.icsgeorgia.org. Paper copies are available upon request in the front office. Families new to our school will receive a copy during the registration process. Residential facilities (Homeless, foster care, and neglected and delinquent) in our school's attendance area are included in our parent and family engagement correspondence and activities.

Resources for Family Engagement

- Our ITPSO (International Parent Teacher Students Organization) works to find ways to keep parents involved in what is going on in the classroom. The group also finds thoughtful way for parents to be an aide to learning going on in the school.
- Our Parent Resource Center has many games, books, school supplies, and technology that parents can utilize to make the most out of teaching and learning with their children.

Communication About Student Learning

Our school believes that families are full partners in their child's education. We will communicate with parents in various ways to include:

- Flyers and class newsletters in Friday Folders
- School newsletters (email & paper)
- Text messaging and phone calls
- Social media and other web-based communication resource
- Parent-Teacher and Student Led conferences
- School website and marquee

Parents may request Parent-Teacher conferences at any time by contacting an individual teacher.

2019-2020 District Goals

Goals of DeKalb County School District

Goal Area I: Student Success with Equity and Access

The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Literature and Math End of Grade (EOG) Assessment.

Committed to Student Success Through Parent and Family Engagement

School-Family Compacts

Our school will collaborate with parents to jointly develop a school-family compact that outlines how families, students, and the entire school staff will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact explains how the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the high academic standards of the district and state.

Training Staff on Parent and Family Engagement

Based on feedback from parents provided on surveys, feedback forms, and comments during our Stakeholder Input Meetings, we will train our staff to better communicate with, value utility and contributions of, and collaborate with parents as equal partners.

Annual Title I Meeting

We held the Annual Title I Meeting on August 22, 2019. The meeting was held at a convenient time to accommodate all stakeholders. Invitations were sent to all parents via: newsletters, Instagram, Facebook, school website, stickers on students, marquee, and flyers.

Parent Resources and Trainings

We are committed to building our parents' capacity to improve student academic achievement! We will host several parent workshops to empower you when working with your child(ren) at home. We will host a Math Night Nov 7 and a Literacy Night on March 12.

2019-2020 School Academic Goals

Goals of ICS

At the International Community School, we will improve our students' overall literacy skills through speaking, writing, reading, and listening, and implementation of the Common Core State Standards. We also plan to increase student's math skills through utilization of our new Eureka curriculum.

Curriculum and Assessment Information

Our school will keep you informed throughout the year about what your child(ren) is learning during Curriculum nights, parent-teacher conferences, and on our school website. The school will also provide parents with individual results of academic assessments including MAP and Georgia Milestones Assessments.

Reservation of Funds

Parents will participate in the development of the 1% parent and family engagement set-aside during the Stakeholder Input Meetings. Parents are also encouraged to complete surveys and feedback forms regarding the parental set-aside. The information will be shared at the Annual Title I Meeting.

Coordination of Services and Transition Support

Our school has a staff member, Ms. Ramsey, who is our transition support staff. She collaborates with feeder schools to support students and families. Additionally, we provide families and students support in transitioning to kindergarten by hosting a popsicle party for rising Kindergarteners and their families before school begins.

Support for Parents of English Language Learners (ELL)

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, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

Other Reasonable Support

All ICS staff have been working hard to make sure our Parent Resource Center will be a helpful resource for families. While our resource center has education resources for families to check out for more review of skills at home, we also have resources for families in need of other supplies and assistance.