

# **Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

## **2017-2018**

### **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:

- (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.
- (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 1116 of the ESSA.

### **About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Coweta Charter Academy at Senoia (CCAS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy 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 the school. This plan will describe CCAS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student 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 substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of 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. Consistent with Section 1116, CCAS will work to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

## **Jointly Developed**

During the annual Principal's Planning Committee meeting in May, parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2017-2018 school year. The district sent an email to parents informing them about this meeting. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, the Parent Advisory Council reviewed the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy was posted on district and school website, distributed during the annual Title I school meeting early this school year, and made available in the school lobby.

## **Strengthening Our School**

CCAS will ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. The school sponsors a variety of social activities that encourage parents to interact with their child as well as school and community members. These social activities are as follow:

- Winter Wonderland Dance
- Field Day
- Monthly awards celebrations recognizing student achievement
- End of the year celebrations
- All stakeholders are encouraged to attend PTC meetings
- All stakeholders are encouraged to attend Board meetings
- Parent meetings
- Science Fair exhibition
- Fine Arts Festival
- Principal Chat
- Open House
- Title I Annual Meeting
- Curriculum Nights
- Career Day
- Variety of Clubs
- Parent volunteer hours
- Spirit Nights
- Parent Surveys
- Scholastic Book Fair in the Fall and Spring

## **Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation**

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the school and students reach our student academic achievement goals.

### **Principal Chat Forums**

Principal Chat Forums for parents and family members are offered throughout the year to provide updates from Coweta Charter Academy, participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan, and to provide input on the school's parent and family engagement policies and budget. The school will email invitations to parents notifying them about the date and time of each forum. Information regarding the Principal Chat forums will also be made available on the school website.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support 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  
<http://www.cowetacharter.org/title-1/> to review the  
**2017-18 CCAS Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

## **Building Capacity of Parents and Staff**

### **Parents**

CCAS will work 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. CCAS will provide multiple opportunities 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. Information will be shared with families to assist them in understanding how to use the GA SLDS and GKIDS Parent Portals to monitor their child's progress and access resources and materials to improve their child's achievement. The dates and locations for these meetings and will be posted on the school website and shared through the school's newsletter.

CCAS will use technology through the Edmodo platform to allow family, students, and community to receive communication from the school and also provide feedback to better support our students.

The school provide information to parents on the importance of student attendance to provide their children with more opportunities to learn. The school will use the evidence-based strategies found in, "*Present and accounted for: Improving student attendance through family and community involvement.*" Epstein, Joyce L and Steven B. Sheldon. *The Journal of Educational Research* 95.5 (2002): 308-318.

CCAS will update pages on school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at the school for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system, **PowerSchool**, and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), the school to host Curriculum Night meetings for parents. Dates and times for these meetings will be announced throughout the school year.

### **Staff**

The school will build faculty and staff capacity improve the student attendance rate and provide students with more opportunities to learn. The school will use the evidence-based strategies found in, "*Present and accounted for: Improving student attendance through family and community involvement.*" Epstein, Joyce L and Steven B. Sheldon. *The Journal of Educational Research* 95.5 (2002): 308-318.

At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained to identify students who require parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language and providing interpreters at parent events and CCAS meetings. Information posted on the school website will be translated to the extent practicable. The school will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.



## **Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation**

Each year, Coweta Charter Academy will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of our school through an annual parent survey and the Principal's Planning Committee.

Beginning in April, the school will email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, the school will facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

### **Accessibility**

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the school will 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.

### **Adoption**

This districtwide/school parent and family engagement policy 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, and district personnel at the annual Principal's Planning Committee.

This policy was adopted by Coweta Charter Academy on June 4, 2017 and will be in effect for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2017.