

# 2023-2024 PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

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**MISSION** The BCSD maximizes student achievement and social-emotional well-being by building a sense of community in safe, equitable learning environments.

**VISION** Students are empowered to learn, lead, innovate, and serve as productive and caring citizens within their chosen paths of success.

**OUR GOALS** Student Achievement, Staff Effectiveness, and Stakeholder Engagement



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## 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 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

"Education is not preparation for life; Education is life itself."

*John Dewey*

# ABOUT THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN



In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Bibb County School District (BCSD) developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement. It describes BCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and builds the capacity of its Title I Schools to succeed in reaching 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, the BCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans 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.



Each student will graduate **empowered** to make a well-informed decision about their next step. They will learn about themselves as they **engage** in rigorous content and gain **exposure** through personalized learning **experiences**, thereby **enlightening** them to choose their most meaningful pathway.

## LEARNER OUTCOMES

MATCHED AND ENROLLED

MOTIVATED TO ENLIST

MOLDED FOR ENTREPRENEURSHIP

MEANINGFULLY EMPLOYED

## STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS

The district utilizes the PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnership, adopted by the State Board of Education in 2010, to support family and community engagement.

***The six standards are welcoming all families, communicating effectively, supporting student success, speaking up for every child, sharing power, and collaborating with the community***

The district Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC), and Family Engagement Specialists (FES) will provide technical assistance and coordinate district family engagement activities with the school Family Engagement Facilitator (FEF) or school representative to ensure the six standards are being satisfied and that processes and activities are implemented and evaluated. In addition to school visits and webinars, the family engagement team will hold frequent meetings/trainings with principals and FEFs to review family engagement plans; learn and discuss strategies to increase family and community engagement; and develop effective forms of two-way communication. Additionally, the district convenes a District/Administrators meeting in July for principals to review family engagement requirements, timelines and guidance on Title I, Part A. The district collaborates with Head Start and United Way of Central Georgia to engage parents and family members effectively in education.

## JOINTLY DEVELOPED

During the annual State of the District Forums in the spring all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the district parent and family engagement plan for the 2023-2024 school year. The district uses social media, district and school websites, automated calling system (in English and Spanish) emails, and flyers to inform parents about the meetings. During the meetings, parents also review and discuss the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). At the school Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forums, parents are invited to review and provide input on developing the district and school improvement plans. Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement

plan is incorporated into the CLIP, which is 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. All feedback received by February 28, 2023 is included with the plan for the 2023-2024 school year.

The district and school parent and family engagement plan are posted on the district and school websites and distributed during the annual Title I school meetings held prior to September 8, 2023. The plans are included in the Title I Parent and Family Engagement Guidebook that is sent home with students at the beginning of the school year and made available in the school parent resource area.

## RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The BCSD reserves one percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements consistent with this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the BCSD distributes 90 percent of the one percent reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district provides clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

At the State of the District and school FACE Forums in the spring, parents provide input on how the one percent required family engagement funds are used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Each Title I school will survey parents in November for suggestions. Survey results and stakeholder input from the forums are reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

# OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PARENT INPUT

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 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 on decisions to help the district, schools, and students reach our student academic achievement goals.

## State of the District Forums

Thursday, February 8, 2024

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Bibb County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement plan and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Notices regarding the forums are made available to all parents in advance of the meetings. The district also communicates information regarding these input meetings on the school and district websites.

## Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Forums

February 1 – March 8, 2024

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, school parent and family engagement plan, school-parent compact as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and building staff capacity. Each Title I school will send information home and post details on social media notifying parents and family members about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the FACE Forums will also be made available on each Title I school website.

Parent input on decisions regarding use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be submitted through the annual parent 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 the meetings?

Contact the Family Engagement Program at 478-779-2579 to review the meeting documents and leave your input.

# BUILDING CAPACITY OF FAMILIES AND STAFF

The BCSD will build school and parent capacity for strong family engagement to ensure effective involvement of family members and the community, as equal partners, to improve student academic achievement through districtwide activities and programs.

## FAMILIES



**Supporting Students Success.** The district will work to Support Student Success by providing assistance to parents and family members in understanding academic information connected to their children's learning along with information regarding the Title I program. As part of the district Builder Series, Built4Bibb (B4B), parent sessions are held in each of the six school zones. These sessions help bridge the gap between the school and community to give families direct access to resources and information that support their understanding of Georgia standards, curriculum, state and local assessments, district and school achievement goals, the social-emotional well-being of students and families, school safety and other community resources. Additional materials will be available in each school parent resource area for those families who may have limited internet access, including resources in Spanish, where possible.

**Communicating Effectively.** Each Title I school will host monthly workshops and have a parent page on its website that contains grade level resources, including study guides and practice assessments to help parents work with their children at home. The district family engagement team will support Title I schools in assisting parents with how to monitor their child's progress using Parent Portal, the online student information system. Parents will receive information about other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy). Dates and times for workshops will be determined and announced through various district and school communication methods.

**Speaking Up for Every Child.** To empower parents and community leaders to become advocates for their own and other children, the BCSD has a districtwide Superintendent Parent Advisory Council. Parents, community leaders, and business partners are invited to serve on each respective council to share ideas on all matters related to school policies, procedures, and family and community engagement. In addition, each school has an active school council.

**Sharing Power.** The district and schools are committed to encouraging opportunities for parents and family members to serve as parent leaders by organizing events, volunteering at school, participating in PTA/PTO, and networking with each other and with the community.

**Collaborating With the Community.** BCSD will develop resources to expand learning, community service, and civic participation that enhance the school environment.

**Welcoming All Families.** To ensure a smooth transition from one school environment to another for parents of rising kindergarten, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 9<sup>th</sup> grade students, BCSD will host Smooth Move events so parents may tour schools and receive information to help them prepare for a new setting. The school will provide opportunities for students and parents to help make decisions about 4ME learning outcomes and choose a meaningful pathway for the future. BCSD will coordinate with other federal and state funded preschool programs to plan and integrate family engagement activities and resources.

## STAFF



The BCSD will conduct quarterly training for principals and FEFs to learn and discuss strategies to strengthen family engagement and build ties with families and the community. The district will create with input from parents and family members, several presentations on Creating a Welcoming Environment and Improving Communication with Families that will be available to schools for training purposes.

To ensure that information related to district, school and parent programs is available to all parents, each Title I school will send home in August a Title I Parent and Family Engagement Guidebook, which provides information related to meetings and other activities in an understandable and uniform format. FEFs and appropriate school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable. Interpreters will be available for parent events and meetings. In addition, the district and schools will distribute information about school policies, programs, and activities on the district/school websites, through flyers, newsletters, emails, social media, and the district's Remind messaging system.

# PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Parents are provided opportunity to participate, as equal partners, in the decisions that affect children and families. The BCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the State of the District and school FACE Forums.

Beginning in November, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the family engagement activities and programs. The survey will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete.

In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the school FACE Forums to facilitate group discussions to obtain input from parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The district and schools will use the findings from the forums and the survey results to implement processes for effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise parent and family engagement plans.

## ACCESSIBILITY FOR ALL

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the district family engagement team will communicate and collaborate with the Offices of Student Affairs and Teaching and Learning. To ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, the district will provide information and school reports in a language parents can understand to the extent possible.

## ADOPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF PLAN

This district 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, schools, and district personnel at the annual State of the District Forums. This plan was adopted by the Bibb County School District on March 24, 2023, and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 8, 2023.

## Upcoming Events:

### *For Parents*

**B4B Parent Sessions**  
(ongoing)

**Parent Portal**  
(ongoing)

**Annual Parent Survey**  
November-December 2023

**State of the District Forums**  
February 8, 2024

**School FACE Forums**  
February 1 – March 8, 2024

### *For Schools*

**District/Administrators Meeting**  
(ongoing)

**Family Engagement Facilitator Meeting**  
(ongoing)

**Effective Two-Way Communication**  
(ongoing)

**Building Parent and Staff Capacity**  
September-November 2023

**FEF Zone Meeting**  
January 2024

