

**GWINNETT COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**TITLE I PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN**  
**2009-2010**

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Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS), also referred to as the Local Educational Agency (LEA) or the district, is committed to establishing partnerships with parents and community members, and encourages their participation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of its Title I Parent Involvement Plan and activities as stipulated under section 1112, section 1116, and section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

*(A) GCPS will involve parents in the joint development of the plan under Section 1112, Local Educational Agency Plans, and the process of school review and improvement under section 1116, Academic Assessment and Local Educational Agency and School Improvement, of the No Child Left Behind Act.*

**Revision of the GCPS Title I Parent Involvement Policy-Plan**

This policy-plan explains the expectations for parent involvement in Title I Schools. All parents of students attending Title I Schools are invited to participate in the review process. Parent input from the review meetings and annual parent surveys, as well as the discussions during meetings of the GCPS Title I Parent Advisory Committee is used to revise the plan. The process for future review and/or revisions of this policy-plan is as follows:

- Regularly scheduled meetings of the GCPS Title I Parent Advisory Committee
- Annual parent survey (see section E)
- Comments and suggestions received from parents throughout the school year
- Policy Review Forums (May, 2010)

*(B) GCPS provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.*

**Support by LEA Title I Office**

Appropriate Title I staff members assist and provide coordination of support to each Title I school as needed. Two (2) Program Specialists for Title I Parent Involvement ensure the effective planning and implementation of parent involvement activities. They may be contacted by calling: 678 301-7060.

**Allocation of Title I Parent Involvement Funds**

The Title I Program of GCPS allocates funds for parent involvement based on the guidelines as stipulated in the NCLB Act of 2001 - not less than one percent (1%), which equals \$427,217, of its total Title I allocation for parent involvement. The total allocation to parent involvement for the 2009-2010 school year is as follows:

- Employing Parent Instructional Support Coordinators in Title I Parent Centers
- Parent Leadership Academy (Currently held at Radloff Middle School) *All parents of Title I students may participate in the Parent Leadership Academy.*
- District-wide Parent Events
  1. Title I Super Saturday – *September 26, 2009*
  2. Title I Family Conference – *Saturday, March 6, 2010*

The district will allocate a total of \$2,079,988 in Title I funds for parent involvement.

*(C) GCPS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.*

**Notification of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Status**

Parents are notified of the AYP status of each Title I school. Parents of students attending Title I Schools identified as Needs Improvement (NI) receive a written explanation regarding their status and are advised of their parent rights under NCLB, which may include Supplemental Educational Services (SES) or Public School Choice.

Parents of students attending Title I schools identified as Needs Improvement have the right to provide input regarding the development of the school's plan for improvement. In addition to each school's administration and faculty, other school district personnel are available to assist the school in defining and attaining academic goals. Information about Title I, Public School Choice and Supplemental Educational Services (SES) is made available on each NI school's website and the GCPS website. Information is also available at each school.

**Collaboration with the Community**

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Gwinnett County Public Schools embraces its students, parents, and community. Administrators, faculty, and staff collaborate with businesses and community-based organizations to provide resources and networks for parents and students.

**Communication**

All communications are in an easy-to-understand language. Written/oral translations in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean, and Bosnian are available through the GCPS Title III Office, local school personnel, or other contracted individuals. Translations for other languages may be provided upon request, and to the extent practicable.

GCPS maintains continuous communication with parents via multiple media, including:

- ◆ GCPS/local school websites
- ◆ Local media and community/business partners
- ◆ Parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, Parent/Family Centers
- ◆ Newsletters, emails, signs and posters
- ◆ Telephone, automated calling systems

**The GCPS Title I Parent Involvement Advisory Committee**

The GCPS Title I Parent Involvement Advisory Committee represents all Title I parents in matters concerning the LEA Title I Program. The committee includes parents from each school, Parent Instructional Support Coordinators from each cluster in which Title I schools are located, and Title I and other district level personnel.

Each parent representative is a member of the Local School's Title I Committee and is encouraged to complete Level 1 of the LEA Parent Leadership Academy. Parent members of the Parent Advisory Committee are selected by members of the Local School Title I Committee.

**Support for Student Learning**

GCPS supports parents in meeting their basic obligation as their child's first teacher. This is accomplished in part through:

- ◆ Parent/Family Centers at each Title I school, facilitated by certified personnel.
- ◆ Materials (for check-out) will be available to parents in Parent/Family Centers
- ◆ Providing at least ten (10) meetings/trainings to assist parents in understanding of:
  - National/state/district education goals, content standards, and curriculum
  - Educational rights/responsibilities under the No Child Left Behind Act and Title I, Part A
  - School district and state assessments
  - Reading, writing, and math skills and strategies
- ◆ Providing parents with additional learning opportunities that promote:
  - oral and written English literacy
  - effective communication with educators and use of technology
  - decision-making skills and goal setting/tracking goal progress
  - methods for monitoring their children's progress
  - parental leadership through the LEA Parent Leadership Academy

Parent meetings/trainings days and times vary to accommodate parents' schedules and in order to maximize parent participation. Meetings/training may also be held at locations that are convenient to parents, other than the local school. All learning opportunities provided for parents are in accordance with the Joyce Epstein's six standards for effective parent involvement, adopted by the National PTA.

Gwinnett County Public Schools embraces its students, parents, and community. Administrators, faculty, and staff collaborate with businesses and community-based organizations to provide resources and networks for parents and students, such as the [Georgia Parent Information and Resource Center \(PIRC\), 600 West Peachtree Street, Suite 1200, Atlanta, GA, 30308](#)

*(D) GCPS will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as the Head Start program, Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, Parents as Teachers program, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs.*

**Integration with Other Programs**

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To the extent feasible and appropriate, the GCPS Title I Program coordinates and integrates parent involvement with other programs such as: Special Education, Early Intervention Program (EIP), Supplemental Educational Services (SES), Reading Recovery, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK) – kindergarten transition program.

*(E) GCPS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities, 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), and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.*

**Evaluation/Revision of LEA Title I Parent Involvement Program**

- ◆ The Title I Parent Involvement Plan of GCPS is reviewed and/or revised annually.
- ◆ A district-wide, annual survey is administered in February.
- ◆ Parent meetings are held in March, at various sites/times to maximize parent participation.
- ◆ Parents are given the opportunity to provide input through each school's Title I Parent Advisory Committee Representative
- ◆ Parent Forums are held at each school to discuss the effectiveness of the Title I Program – *November and February*
- ◆ Parent input, along with survey results from local schools, are used to determine the effectiveness of the program; to identify barriers to parent participation; and to increase opportunities for parent participation.

**Title I Documentation**

All Title I meetings are documented with a printed agenda, signed attendance sheets, and multiple forms of advertisement. Minutes of all Title I meetings are recorded, and all parents' written comments and/or suggestions collected and submitted to the Title I Office. The Title I Office maintains its records for five years, and are subject to monitoring by the Georgia Department of Education and/or the United States Departments of Education.

*(F) GCPS will involve parents in the activities of the Title I schools.*

Gwinnett County Public Schools is committed to establishing partnerships with parents and community members, and encourages their participation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of its Title I Parent Involvement Plan and activities as stipulated under section 1112, section 1116, and section 1118 of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001.

**Orientation to Title I**

Orientation meetings are held at least annually at each school to inform parents about:

- ◆ the guidelines, purpose, and goals of the Title I Program, and the student selection process;
- ◆ the Parent Center and the role of the Parent Instructional Support Coordinator (PISC);
- ◆ parents' rights under Title I Part A, to request information about:
  - teacher certification in area(s) in which he/she provides instruction;
  - the degree and/or major of the teacher;
  - qualifications of paraprofessionals instructing students.
- ◆ LEA Title I Parent Involvement Policy and Plan
- ◆ School-Parent Compact, Local School Parent Involvement Policy and Action Plan
- ◆ Title I Complaint Procedure
- ◆ FERPA – Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act
- ◆ PPRA – Protection of Pupil Rights Act
- ◆ Student Directory Information Disclosure to military/institutions of higher learning (high schools)

**Distribution of Title I Notifications**

All required Title I documents and parent notifications are distributed by each local Title I school. These documents may also be available in the GCPS/Local School Handbook, and on the GCPS/local school website.

**School-Parent Compact**

The School-Parent Compact is explained, discussed, and signed with parents and students during the Title I Orientation Meeting, and may be discussed again during spring report card conferences. Parents receive

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copies. New registrants discuss and sign the School-Parent Compact and are given a copy, along with other required Title I documents at registration. Parents and/or teachers may elect to review and/or revise an individual student's School-Parent Compact to accommodate that student's individual needs.

**School Staff Collaboration with Parents**

Each Title I school provides its faculty and staff members with training to assist them in working with parents as equal partners in the educational process and to increase effective communication between the home/school. Parents' input should be considered in planning such training.

**Parent Leadership and Other Support**

Additional opportunities for parents to be involved include:

- ◆ volunteering in the school and/or classroom; peer mentoring
- ◆ school leadership teams such as: PTA, Title I Committee, and Local School Councils
- ◆ LEA Parent Advisory Committee

**Evaluation/Revision of the Local School Title I Parent Involvement Program**

- ◆ Each Title I School surveys its parent population, at least annually, to evaluate the effectiveness of its parent involvement program.
- ◆ Parents are given at least two opportunities to participate in the survey, by written/online questionnaire, personal/telephone interview, or focus groups.
- ◆ Each school's Title I Committee, consisting of parents, community members, school administration, and staff, meets to review and/or revise the School Parent Involvement Policy and Action Plan, and the School-Parent Compact.
- ◆ All members of the Title I Committee have the opportunity to provide input about the expending of the Title I Instructional and Parent Involvement Budgets.
- ◆ Proposed budgets are available to **all** members of the Title I Committee four (4) days prior to the meeting at which such budgets will be discussed. Parents who are not members of the Title I Committee have the right to request a copy of the proposed budgets and provide feedback, prior to approval by the Title I Committee.

**This LEA Title I Parent Involvement Plan was reviewed and revised with the input of GCPS staff, parents, and community members, and finalized July, 2009. It will be distributed to all parents of students attending Title I Schools. It will also be available to the community through the Parent Centers and on the GCPS website.**