



# Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024

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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:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning,
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education,
- (C) 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, and
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



# About

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Barrow County School System (BCSS) 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 district's Title I schools.

This plan will describe BCSS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools 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 ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to engage parents and family members in their children's education.

The Barrow County School System will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law, and each includes, as a component, a school-parent compact.

# Jointly Developed



During the annual Comprehensive Needs Assessment meeting in the Spring of 2023, all parents were invited to participate and provide ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year.

## Input Opportunities

Parents and teachers provided input regarding current parent engagement programs in order to improve implementation and ensure needs are met. The school system obtained parent input from

- school-based spring planning meetings,
- feedback forms posted on the system website, and
- quarterly system parent advisory council meetings.

All feedback received by April 2023 was considered for revisions to this policy.

During these meetings, parents also reviewed and discussed the Streamlined Consolidated Learning Educational Agency Improvement Plan (SCLIP). Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the SCLIP, which was submitted to the state.

## Ongoing Feedback

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 their child's school.

## Accessible

The system family engagement policy is posted on the system website, posted through ParentLink communications, disseminated at Title I meetings in the fall, and made available at schools, all in a format and language that all parents can understand.

# Strengthening Our Schools



## Increasing Support

Planning Sessions

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Resources  
& notifications

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Frequent communication

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School visits

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School staff trainings

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Technical assistance

This year, the system Family Engagement Specialist will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure

- family engagement requirements are being satisfied
- family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented.

Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the Family Engagement Specialist to help them improve and strengthen family engagement.

In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the Specialist will hold scheduled meetings and training with its Title I schools' principals and school staff to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the Family Engagement Specialist will organize a summer planning session in June for principals and school staff to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the 2023-2024 school year.

# Budget



## Fund Reservation

The BCSS will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2023-2024 for a system Family Engagement Specialist to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law.

The district will provide 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.



## Spending Input

Each Title I school hosted an annual Spring Planning Meeting for parents to provide input, suggestions, and comments on how family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level.

Comment cards and minutes from these meetings were reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

If you have suggestions, please contact the **Family Engagement Specialist** in the district office.

# Event Schedule

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are essential components of the improvement plans developed each year.

All parents are invited to attend various meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help us reach our students' academic achievement goals.



FALL  
2023

## Title I Annual Meetings

Families can learn about their right to be involved in their child's education, the school's Title 1 Program, and other programs, events, opportunities, and resources available to them.

NOV  
2023

## Family Engagement Month

We will celebrate Family Engagement Month with a district-wide opportunity for families to learn the latest information about our family engagement program, as well as how to support learning at home. Parents are encouraged to join us and participate.

FEB  
2024

## Annual Parent Survey

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs will be solicited through the annual district survey in February. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training.

SPR  
2024

## Spring Planning Meeting

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the BCSS, as well as review and provide input into the System's Family Engagement Policy and the Streamlined Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (SCLIP) for the 2024-2025 school year.

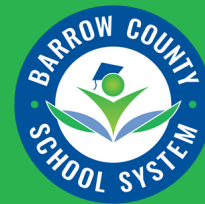
JUN  
2024

## Summer Title Planning

In June, the school system hosts a session with schools to finalize their improvement plans for the following school year. Parent representatives of the School Governance Team from each school are invited to participate in this process. School teams will work on finalizing family engagement policies, budgets, and programs.

*Unable to attend these meetings? Please contact your student's school to obtain the information that was provided during each meeting.*





# Promoting Events

All Family Engagement Events are promoted in a variety of ways.



## Check Your Contact Info

Update your email address and phone number on our Parent Update Website to ensure you receive emails, phone calls, and text messages from your child's school and the district.

Easily make changes at [bit.ly/BCSSInfoUpdate](https://bit.ly/BCSSInfoUpdate)

## Get Social

Connect with your child's school and our school district on social media so you're aware of opportunities to engage with your child's school.



**Facebook**  
@BarrowCountySchools



**YouTube**  
@BarrowCountySchools



**Twitter**  
@BCSchools1



**LinkedIn**  
@BarrowCountySchools



**Instagram**  
@BarrowCountySchools



## Online

Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the BCSS website.

[www.barrow.k12.ga.us](http://www.barrow.k12.ga.us)

# Building Capacity

**The Barrow County School System will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop the capacity for this support, the BCSS will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives.**

## *For Parents -*

BCSS will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information will be provided

- to build parent capacity,
- for the State’s challenging academic standards, and
- about local and state assessments – including alternative assessments.

The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding the use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists.

Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings. In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available at all Title I schools, including copies in Spanish.

Comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school, the BCSS Parent Advisory Council advises the district and schools on all matters related to family engagement. Parents, teachers, and business partners participate in our School Governance Teams. The participation of all of our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.

BCSS will coordinate and integrate the district’s family engagement programs with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs, such as the preschool program in the district. Other examples include:

- Parent workshops at local preschool facilities each year to ease the transition into elementary school.
- In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Sneak-a-Peek, Middle, and High School Transition Nights.
- College and Career Fairs provide information to parents to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

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## For School Staff -

BCSS will assist schools in trainings during the school year.

- Principals and staff will learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community.
- Training will be provided for appropriate school staff focused on creating welcoming environments.
- Online training modules addressing several Family Engagement topics will be made available to BCSS staff.
- School staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post information online for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format.

- When applicable, interpreters will be available at parent events.
- The 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, and social media to post information for parents.





# Evaluation

Each year, the BCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey, the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, feedback forms, and the system Parent Advisory Council.

Beginning in February, each Title I school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. Each Title I school will use spring planning meetings to discuss needs with parents, which will assist the school with designing strategies for more effective family engagement.

The BCSS will use the findings from the school spring planning meetings and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise its parent and family engagement policies.



## **Accessibility**

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the Family Engagement Specialist will communicate and collaborate with the Federal Programs Department to ensure full opportunities for the 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 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 during multiple meetings held throughout the school year.

This policy was adopted by the BCSS on July 1, 2023, and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before November 1.