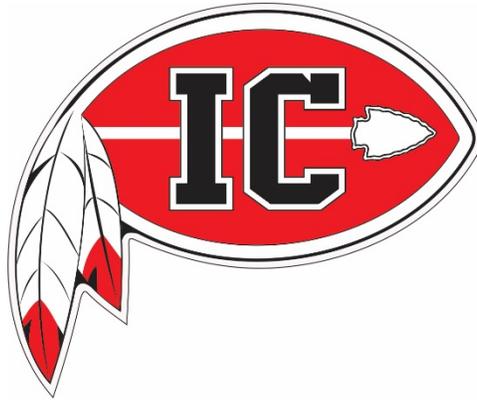


Irwin County School District



Parent Engagement Plan 2020-2021

The Mission of the Irwin County School System is to **CARE**

- **C**ollege and Career Readiness
- **A**cademic Support
- **R**elationships
- **E**xcellence

Our Vision is to embrace innovation, initiate positive change, and provide an equitable and excellent educational opportunity that prepares all graduates for success in their endeavors

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Irwin County School District receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Irwin County School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.
- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (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 at school
- (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
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESEA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED LEA PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Irwin County School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Irwin County Schools will jointly develop/revise with parents the school parent involvement plan and distribute it to parents of participating children and make available the parent involvement plan to the local community. This plan will be distributed in front offices, at school functions, and on school websites.

- Convene an annual meeting, at a convenient time, to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend, to inform parents of their school's participation under this part and to explain the requirements of this part, and the right of the parents to be involved.
- Offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of the school plans.
- Send correspondence/letters and reminders home.
- Distribute surveys and questionnaires (hard copies sent home and online on district website).

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Irwin County School District** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Irwin County Schools shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
- Provide written suggested recommendations for improvement.
- Hold monthly meetings with agendas and sign-in sheets.
- May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
- May establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.
- May develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Irwin County School District** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include 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). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- Irwin County Schools will jointly develop/revise with parents the school parent involvement plan and distribute it to parents of participating children and make available the parent involvement plan to the local community. This plan will be distributed in front offices, at school functions, and on school websites.
- Parent surveys will be utilized and incorporated into our district and school plans.
- Annuals meetings will be held to provide parents the opportunity to provide feedback on all district and school plans.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Irwin County School District** will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

- Irwin County Schools is required to set aside 1% of its Title I allocation for parental involvement. All stakeholders are given the opportunity to give feedback on how the 1% required set aside should be

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Irwin County School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: *Head Start, Family Connections, and public preschool and other programs* that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- Irwin County Schools will gladly work with ALL student related programs to coordinate parent involvement activities.
- Shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.
- Provide evidence of coordination efforts—agendas, sign-in sheets, notes/minutes, handouts,/brochures, and other shared materials

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Irwin County School District** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement.

- Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:
 - The challenging State academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators
- Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.
- Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this as parents may request.
- May involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.
- Shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Irwin County School District** will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff

in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

- Irwin County Schools shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents can understand.
- May adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.
- May establish a district parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.
- Provide monthly technical assistance to staff via meetings and online modes of communication (videos, webinars, Google Classroom).

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
- Training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents
- Maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities

ADOPTION

This policy was adopted by the Irwin County School District in June 2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2020.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)