

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

LORI BEASLEY

Superintendent

JILL BARBER

Federal Programs Coordinator

Revised October 1, 2020

HENRY COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Henry County Board of Education agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with ESSA. Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with ESSA, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental engagement policies meet the requirements of ESSA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with ESSA.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental engagement policy into its LEA plan developed under the ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental 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, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format and, 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 the ESSA, 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 engage the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental engagement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental engagement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental engagement means the participation of parents 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 at school;*
- (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 the ESSA.*

- The school district, with the help of the schools, will inform parents and parental organizations of the purpose and existence of the Parental Information and Resource Centers in the Title I schools.

PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

1. The Henry County School District will take the following actions to engage parents in the joint development of its district-wide parental engagement plan under the ESSA:

The Henry County School District will hold meetings to secure parent input into the development of the system policy/plan. These meetings will be held at different times during the day and at both Abbeville and Headland to encourage participation.

2. The Henry County School District will take the following actions to engage parents in the process of school review and improvement under the ESSA:

The Henry County School District will ensure that annual meetings are held at all Title I schools at the beginning of each school year to discuss the following topics:

- *Title I participation, services available, and parents' rights*
- *An explanation of the school's curriculum and the state's content standards*
- *The State Student Assessment Program*
- *The School-wide Continuous Improvement Plan*
- *The School Parental Engagement Plan*
- *The Parent Resource Center*
- *The Parent Survey*
- *Parent Education Activities*
- *Other timely subjects*

These annual meetings will be held during the school day and in the evening to accommodate the various parents'/guardians' work schedules.

3. The Henry County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

The Henry County School District will provide a system level Parental Engagement Policy/Plan to serve as a guide for system and school level activities. The district will also set aside no less than 1% of its Title I allocation to provide funding necessary to equip the schools with resources to provide quality Parent Resource Center materials. The system Federal Programs Coordinator will serve as the district level contact to coordinate district level activities and provide technical assistance as needed.

4. The Henry County School District will coordinate and integrate parental engagement strategies in Part A with parental engagement strategies under the following other programs: SpectraCare (Wiregrass Mental Health), Living Waters Counseling, local Boys and Girls Clubs, state-operated preschool programs, church-operated and privately operated day care centers by:

-Collaborating with the named programs to integrate strategies to strengthen parental engagement. This will be accomplished through regular meetings held at all Title I schools as well as other appropriate sites.

5. The Henry County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental engagement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental engagement 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 school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental engagement policies.

Parents at all Title I schools will be given surveys (see ACIP) throughout the school year seeking their input on activities, training, and materials that the school should offer to parents the next school year. The distribution and collection of the surveys will be the responsibility of the parental engagement coordinator at each Title I school. Results of the parent surveys will be reviewed by the school-wide advisory committee (including parent representatives) to determine needed changes. Each year, all Title I schools' School-wide Continuous Improvement Plans, including their parental engagement plans, are reviewed and evaluated for effectiveness by the school ACIP committee. Strategies for improvement are developed and implemented. Particular attention is paid to identifying and removing any barriers to greater participation by parents (especially those who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background) in parental engagement activities.

6. The Henry County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement in order to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. This will be accomplished through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State's academic content standards,
- the State's student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I, Part A,
- Adult Basic Education opportunities
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators:

This will be accomplished by providing this information to parents in the annual parent meeting that is held in August of each school year as well as other meetings held throughout the school year at each Title I school. The meetings will be scheduled during the school day and in the evening to accommodate parent needs.

- B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement, by:

-Providing parent engagement links on the Henry County Schools website to useful sites.
<http://www.henrycountyboe.org/> (Departments + Federal Programs + Documents + Parent Engagement Related Links)

-Distributing Home and School Connections parent resources at elementary schools.

-Providing parent training opportunities at Title I schools.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

-Providing parent engagement links on the Henry County Schools website to useful sites.
<http://www.henrycountyboe.org/> (Departments + Federal Programs + Documents + Parent Engagement Related Links)

-Conducting in-service training for teachers utilizing professional development resources available through the Southeast Alabama Regional In-Service Center in Troy. We may also use resources from the Alabama Department of Education and the state PTA organization.

-Making contact with hard to reach parents at alternate sites such as ballparks, churches, etc.

- D. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental engagement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

-Providing parent engagement links on the Henry County Schools website to useful sites.
<http://www.henrycountyboe.org/> (Departments + Federal Programs + Documents + Parent Engagement Related Links)

-Collaborating with SpectraCare, Boys and Girls Clubs, Head Start, church-operated and privately operated day care centers, and other community organizations to provide training opportunities that will enhance the parental engagement program.

-Providing funding for Parent Resource Centers in Title I schools.

- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

All Title I schools will utilize programs such as TransACT to provide timely communication with all parents in a language they can understand.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY LEA PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

The Henry County Parental Engagement Plan also includes these additional items listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement. The additional components may include (but are not limited to) the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents;
- arranging parent meetings at different times during the day/evening in order to maximize parental engagement and participation in their children's education;
- utilize a district wide parent advisory committee to provide advice on all matters related to parental engagement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental engagement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental engagement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART IV. APPROVAL

This LEA Parental Engagement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting agenda, minutes of meeting, and sign-in roster.

The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 15, 2021 using the school websites and LEA website. Copies are also available at each school parent resource room and the LEA Central Office.