

Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan



Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan *[Atlanta SMART Academy]* *[School Year 2026 - 2027]* *[Revision Date 03/06/2026]*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, [Atlanta SMART Academy] 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 (GaDOE).

Atlanta SMART Academy 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.*
- *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 federal law.*
- *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 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 (GaDOE).*
- *The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement 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:*

Family engagement 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 ESSA*

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

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Atlanta SMART Academy 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 ESSA:

- *The Atlanta SMART Academy educates teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and 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 home-school partnerships.*

- *The Atlanta SMART Academy will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations, businesses, and parents in order to increase and maximize participation in parent and family engagement activities. Additionally, information shall be provided regarding opportunities for organizations and businesses to support parent and family engagement that facilitates the formation of meaningful partnerships among all stakeholders. Activities such as role modeling, volunteering, and mentoring will be carried out among schools, local community-based organizations, and businesses.*
- *The Atlanta SMART Academy Parent Engagement Coordinator shall seek to provide opportunities for parents and family members to learn about and participate in discussions regarding child development, positive parenting strategies, and building and maintaining a positive relationship between home and school. Additionally, the Parent Engagement Coordinator shall also provide opportunities for teachers and staff members to learn about and participate in discussions regarding the building and maintaining of positive communications between school and home.*
- *The Atlanta SMART Academy will ensure, to the extent possible, that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the homes of participating children in the language used in such homes or through the use of an interpreter in providing such information to parents. Information is, to the extent possible, posted on the school and/or system website and is available in each school office.*
- *The Atlanta SMART Academy System will establish a district-wide parent advisory council to provide feedback and recommendations on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.*

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Atlanta SMART Academy 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 engagement 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:

- *All parents will be invited to an Annual Title I meeting at the beginning of the school year, which will be held prior to November 1st of that school year.*

- *Form a Parent Advisory Council (PAC) that will include, but not be limited to, parents, family members, community representatives, teachers, and administrators.*
- *All parents and family members will be invited to a district-wide meeting to provide input and revise the district parent and family engagement policy each spring. Parents, family members, and community stakeholders, along with the district parent and family engagement coordinator, will oversee the implementation of this policy. The revised parent and family engagement plan will be available to all parents and families, posted on the district and school websites, and located in the Parent and Family Engagement Resource room(s).*
- *Will make the Title I parent survey available to all families each spring. All families are distributed paper copies and have access to the surveys on the school websites. Survey results provide an evaluation of the implementation of family engagement practices and activities. Survey results will provide input into the revision of this plan and the FY25 Consolidated LEA Plan (CLIP).*
- *Will offer an Annual Title I spring input meeting. All families of students attending Title I schools are invited to meet with principals and staff to provide input on the School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide Program Plans, school parent and family engagement plans, school compacts, how the 1% funding is spent, and review the six strategies for building parent capacity. Advertisement is made through school websites, school newsletters, email, school marquee, and the local newspaper.*
- *Solicit parent feedback and input continuously through school advisory meetings, PTO meetings, workshops, newsletters, and school and district websites. All feedback received is used to inform the policy revision as well as the annual CLIP process.*

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Atlanta SMART Academy will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement 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 engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- *All Title I parents will be provided the opportunity to complete the annual evaluation. The evaluation will include survey questions aimed at identifying the strengths, weaknesses, and future needs of the program.*
- *The Parent Engagement Coordinator will disaggregate survey data, identify needs for the system, and provide a summary of survey responses and needs to the Title I Director.*
- *Annual evaluation results will be shared with each building principal, all district leaders, and members of the District-Wide Parent Advisory Council. Building principals shall be charged with sharing survey results with the school leadership team.*
- *Survey results shall be provided to parents and family members at the annual Title I stakeholder meeting.*

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Atlanta SMART Academy 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.

The Atlanta SMART Academy principals have agreed to pool all of their Title I family-school partnership allocation so that the district can fund the salary of a Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator. The 1% allocation is supplemented by additional Title I funds to support the funding of this position. The Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator coordinates, conducts, and oversees the implementation of the parent and family program to ensure fidelity as it relates to the requirements found within ESSA.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Atlanta SMART Academy will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and families, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: *[Insert programs, such as: Head Start or other public preschool programs; transitioning to middle, high, postsecondary schools, or careers; and other programs]* that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- *Transition activities may include reviewing the registration process, examining academic expectations, discussing behavioral expectations, and identifying strategies that parents and family members may utilize to ease the transition process.*
- *Collaborating with the community to maximize potential outreach opportunities available to parents and family members, school faculty, and community members.*
- *Providing the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator the opportunity to participate in local, regional, and state conferences/workshops in order to provide parents with information regarding available support and/or strategies. The Coordinator shall participate in the monthly Community Collaborative of social service agencies that meets in a neighboring district.*
- *The Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator planning and conducting parent workshops and training programs based on needs identified through the annual evaluation.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Atlanta SMART Academy 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*

The Atlanta SMART Academy will, with the assistance of stakeholders, seek to educate its parents on how to effectively reach out to, communicate with, and work with teachers as equal partners by:

- *Completing the GaDOE Checklist for Building Capacity of Parents on an annual basis.*
- *Utilizing the GaDOE Building Parent Capacity Crosswalk.*

- *Providing parents and family members with resources that provide guidance and strategies on how to effectively reach out to, communicate with, and work with teachers as equal partners.*
- *Conducting parent and family workshops that address effective home and school communication.*
- *Following the GaDOE Parent Engagement Facebook page and sharing provided resources with parents and family members.*
- *Providing the opportunity for the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator to attend local, regional, and state conferences aimed at improving and increasing parent and family engagement.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Atlanta SMART Academy 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:

- *Completing the GaDOE Checklist for Building Capacity of School Staff on annual basis.*
- *Utilizing GaDOE resources, such as the Ideas for Building School Staff Capacity Guide, to share with principals and school staff to maximize opportunities to build school staff capacity.*
- *Customize and present the Building School Staff Capacity Power-point shared by the GaDOE Family-School Partnership Program to staff members of Title I schools.*
- *Following the GaDOE Parent Engagement Facebook page and sharing provided resources with staff members.*
- *Ensuring that information sent home, to the extent possible, is in the language most used in the home. The district will provide translators and interpreters, to the extent possible, to assist with document translation and to participate in meetings with parents and family members.*
- *Providing the opportunity for the Parent and Family Engagement Coordinator to attend local, regional, and state conferences aimed at improving and increasing parent and family engagement.*

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

The following are discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA that the Atlanta SMART Academy Parent and Family Engagement Program may utilize to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school:

- ❑ 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 childcare 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

*The **Atlanta SMART Academy** parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by parent/family and stakeholder participation and feedback documents on file.*

*This policy was adopted by the **Atlanta SMART Academy** on **March 06, 2026** and will be in effect for the period of the **2026-2027 school year**. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 01, 2026.*