

Phenix City Public Schools

LEA PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT PLAN FY20

PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS.

The Phenix City Public School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The Phenix City Public School district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with section 1118, Phenix City Public School District will work with its schools to ensure that the required school level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
- The Phenix City Public School District will incorporate this LEA parental involvement plan into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the Phenix City Public 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 section d2111 of the ESEA 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 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 Alabama State Department of Education.
- The Phenix City Public School District will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1% of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The Phenix City Public School District will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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) 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 partner 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 section 1118 of the ESEA.

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Part II.

1. The Phenix City School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
 - Implement a variety of strategies to establish rapport with parents/families such as holding meetings at alternate locations (Church, Community Centers, etc.)
 - In an effort to involve parents, the LEA will establish a district level parent advisory council. Each Title 1 school will identify at least two parents to serve on this council.
 - Two meetings are scheduled during the year. During these meetings, parents will be provided information regarding the requirement of ESSA, Title 1 and state standards regarding Parental Involvement
2. The Phenix City School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - Develop a system-wide training to educate school personnel on the role and benefits of parent/family involvement and the importance of “Family/Community Friendly” Schools.
 - Survey all parents at the end of the school year to solicit their input on activities, workshops and materials that the schools should offer to parents during each school year.
 - Provide an opportunity for all parents to review the plans and offer any comments and suggestions.
 - Review and evaluate, with parental involvement, all school Continuous Improvement Plans.
 - Analyze results of parent surveys to determine and prioritize identified needs and recommended changes.
3. The Phenix City School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title 1, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
 - Provide technical assistance and other support necessary to assist schools in planning and implementing effective parent/family involvement activities to improve student achievement and school performance.
 - Involve parents/families in an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent/Family Involvement Policy.

4. The Phenix City School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with Parental Involvement strategies under the following other programs:
 - Early Learning Center
 - District Preschool Programs
 - At-Risk Program at select sites
 - Family and Children Connection
 - T.E.A.R.S.
5. The Phenix City 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 involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title 1, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement 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 involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.
 - All Title 1 school parents will participate in a school-wide parent survey. Each school will be responsible for disseminating and collecting the surveys. The survey will be conducted during the second semester of each year.
 - The survey is designed to address and include all items required by federal guidelines.
 - The district Parent Involvement Specialist will calculate data for the entire system.
 - Schools will use their data in revisions of their school parent involvement plan.
 - Barriers to be considered: what keeps parents from participating in their child's education?
 - Time factor – Many parents work and they have limited time, if any, available for participation.
 - Education level of the parents—Many parents are uncomfortable in an academic setting and are genuinely limited in their ability to assist their children with school work
 - Participation of grandparents versus the parents - Many grandparents are actually the primary caregivers of students which often brings generational differences, limited resources, and barriers associated with aging.

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

A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title 1, 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 Part A,
- How to monitor their child's progress, and
- How to work with educators:

Schools provide parents with information about programs in a variety of ways:

- School orientations
- Parent conference scheduled to accommodate parents
- Notices
- Homework planners
- Calendar of events
- Web pages
- Different workshops are provided by each school along with other workshops provided by Parent Involvement Specialist
- Newspaper Articles.

Schools communicate state performance standards, the school performance profile, and the school's progress in meeting the academic standards and proficiency levels students are expected to achieve through:

- PTA Meetings
- Individual student assessment results sent home with students
- Individual parent-teacher conferences
- Grade-Level Meetings

B. The Phenix City 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 involvement, by:

- Establishing a Parent Resource Area in each school,

- Reaching out to parents through mail outs, school newsletters, school web sites, phone calls, local newspapers, television and radio announcements, Phenix City Parks and Recreation Sports Programs, the Local Ministerial Alliances, and other community agencies.

C. The Phenix City 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 how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

- Reinforcing the high quality of material and instruction that will help students meet high performance standards
- Providing workshops to train parents to assist and monitor homework and to monitor their child's progress.
- Providing information for both home and school for the following:
 - Homework and discipline policies of their child's teacher
 - School/student Handbooks and Compacts
 - Resources such as parenting study tips, school web page, homework hotlines, and access to on-line student information through STI Home Access which are available for parents to use at home
 - Opportunities to communicate with school administration and teachers through an Open Door Policy at each school

Each individual school addresses the importance of communication between teachers and parents on an on-going basis. Scheduled reports on their child's progress are sent to parents through progress reports and report cards quarterly and more often if requested by the parents.

D. The Phenix City School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Early Learning Center, 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, encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children through:

- Orientation presentations
- Family Nights
- Computer and other technology classes

- Tutoring

E. The Phenix City 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.

- Provide opportunities to the extent possible for the involvement of parents/families who speak a language other than English, the disabled, the homeless, neglected/delinquent and migratory
- Provide forms, newsletters and schedules to keep parents informed in their primary language