



## School

### 2018-2019 School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

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

Title I, Part A, Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each school served under Title I, Part A, develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy/plan.

#### DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS:

**Goal Area I: Student Success with Equity and Access**  
**Improve student's mastery of learning standards**

- The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones **Literature End of Course (EOC) Assessment**.
- The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones **Math End of Course (EOC) Assessment**.

#### DEKALB ALTERNATIVE SCHOOL ACADEMIC GOALS:

School Year 2018-2019, we will improve student growth of academically rigorous learning standards in Math and Reading Comprehension, as measured by:

- 1) 2% increase in the number of students achieving proficient or higher on Georgia Milestones End of Course Assessment.
- 2) 2% increase on the expected growth projection for RIT scores on the MAP assessment in grades 6-10.

*Our school will focus on the following area(s) of growth:*

- *Math*
- *ELA*
- *Reading Comprehension*

#### JOINTLY DEVELOPED

DeKalb Alternative School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

DeKalb Alternative School Parent are encouraged to attend Stakeholder's Input Meetings to jointly develop the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School-Parent Compact, provide suggestions for Building Capacity of School Staff, and use of the 1% parent and family engagement set aside. Suggestions should be based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the school's parent surveys and other school events/activities to provide input throughout the year.

### **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

DeKalb Alternative School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

DeKalb Alternative School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care, as such services relate to parental involvement.
- Residential facilities (Homeless, foster care, and N&D) in our school’s attendance area are included in our parent and family engagement correspondence and activities.
- 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:

- 1) We provide timely notices of Title I meetings, activities, and academic progress via flyers, the school website, email, Infinite Campus Parent Portal, and Monthly Newsletters, Phone calls, (Calling Post), and Parent Engagement Forums. These communications allow parents time to adjust their schedules for meetings and to be aware of their child’s performance at school.
- 2) The twice-weekly orientation and entry conferences is used as a consistent additional means of communication with our parents, students, and stakeholders. Curriculum Night will be held Sept. 19th (the beginning of the school year) where administrators and teachers provide parents information about The DCSD Curriculum, academic assessments used to measure student progress and testing data. Title I Stakeholder Input meetings are provided at multiple dates and times to parents and stakeholders to respond to any suggestions or ideas they may have related to the education of their child. This information is then used to develop the school parent policy, school-parent compact, and 1% parent and family engagement set aside.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

DeKalb Alternative School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school-parent-compact will serve as an additional means of communicating how the school and parents will strengthen the partnership between school and home to increase student achievement.

- 1) As part of this plan, our school and families will jointly develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the Title I Stakeholder's Input Meeting.
- 2) The compact will explain how the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children improve student growth of academically rigorous learning standards in all science, math, social studies, and English Language Arts classes. Compacts will be given to all parents and students at the twice-weekly entry-conferences / orientation meeting, and placed on the school's website. Parents are asked to sign and return the compacts.

### **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

DeKalb Alternative School will take the following actions to involve 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 involvement is spent by:

Parents will participate in the development expenditure plans of the 1% parent and family engagement set aside during the Stakeholder's Input Meetings. Parents are also encouraged to complete surveys regarding the parental set-aside. The information will be shared at the Annual Title I meeting.

### **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

DeKalb County School District will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, 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:

DeKalb Alternative School will provide four Parent-Engagement Forums (two Content Forums each semester) focusing on the curriculum and instruction as well as the providing strategies for parent to support their child at home academically and behaviorally. Parents are asked to designate a study location for their child to complete homework assignments. Parents are also provided a Study Tool-Kit that includes: a notebook, loose leaf paper, pencils, pens, and a pamphlet with tips and strategies for parents to help their child with homework.

### **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

DeKalb Alternative School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - 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.
  - How to monitor their child's progress.
  - How to work with educators.

Our school will provide parents a description and explanation of the curriculum on the Website and during our Curriculum Night. The school will provide parents with individual results of academic assessments including MAP and Georgia Milestones End of Grade (EOG). Parents will be informed of the required assessments during Curriculum Night, parent teacher conference, information provided on website, class dojo and calling posts.

Parents are highly encouraged to provide input on topics and as deemed necessary on building staff capacity. Additionally, parents will be helped in understanding topics such as:

- Georgia Milestones EOG and EOC
- DCSD Curriculum and Georgia Standards of Excellence

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

DeKalb Alternative School will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate, 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 the school by:

Our school faculty planning periods on Wednesdays will be utilized for professional development where staff members will learn and discuss strategies to develop ideas in order to enhance communications, share resources, and enhance relationships with parents and community stakeholders to increase student growth. Some Staff Capacity Building Workshops will include but are not limited to the following topics:

- How to reach out to parents
- Building strong relationships with parents/guardians
- Communications to build partnerships
- Parents as equal partners
- Parent programs that strengthen ties between parents and the school

In addition, the Title I Family Engagement Facilitator will support the school by meeting with the DAS Title I Liaison to develop professional learning opportunities based on feedback from parent input to strengthen ties between home, school, and community.

DeKalb Alternative School will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

**Reasonable Support Provided for Parent Engagement Activities:**

- Inviting parents to attend school activities
- Asking parents to monitor student progress via the Infinite Campus Parent Portal
- Scheduling varied time for parent conferences such as: during morning student drop off, afterschool pick up, entry conferences and upon request of scheduled conference.

**DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**  
**POLICY COMPONENTS**

**Check all that apply:**

- Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay 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.
- Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- To maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

- Encourage parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
- Maximize parental involvement and participation in their child's education AND arrange school meetings at a variety of times.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.
- Engaging parents in active learning opportunities at the four Content- Area Title I Parent Forums
- Provide Study Tool Kits for parents to work with their child at home
- Offer training to parents on using Parent Portal, On-line Computer Resources and Websites.

DeKalb Alternative School takes into consideration the time and resource constraints that our parents face. Parents are encouraged to conference with teachers after 2:30pm, or with administrator throughout the day. DeKalb Alternative School will also hold evening conferences during the school year. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with teachers via email and Infinite Campus (Parent Portal). Parent workshops are held on different days and times throughout the year based on the data we received on the parent surveys. The School will collaborate with all stakeholders to share school communications as well as parent engagement workshops based on parent feedback.