



# Baldwin County School District

## District Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2024-2025

Revised June 23, 2024

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## What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement is identified as the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities to include ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to actively participate in their child's education
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

## About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Baldwin County School District (BCSD) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe BCSD's commitment to engaging families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer, and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A, provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. The BCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law, and each component will include a school-parent compact.

# JOINTLY DEVELOPED

During the annual District governance meeting in May 2024, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2024-2025 school year. The district invited all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the District Strategic Plan. Additionally, each Title I school used its Local School Governance Team to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the 2024-2025 school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by May 2024 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

## STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOL

This year, the Director of Federal Programs will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure that family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that all family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school-level coordinators to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene a summit in March for principals and school-level coordinators to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

## RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The BCSD will reserve 1% of the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2024-2025 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the BCSD will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities.

The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school develop an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. Each Title I school provided opportunities for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school level. Feedback was reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact the Title I Director in the district office.



# OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PARENT CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

## District Family Engagement Feedback Meeting ~ To be Held during the Month of May 2025

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Baldwin County School District and review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

## School Family Engagement Feedback Forum~ To be Held during the Month of April/May 2025

Each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan and the school's parent and family engagement policies, as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will advertise the meeting notifying parents about the date and time of the forum through multiple means. This includes but is not limited to the school website, social media, flyers, email, and Class Dojo. Information regarding the School Family Engagement Feedback will be made available on the school websites.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

## Unable to attend these meetings?

Please visit [www.baldwincountyschools.org](http://www.baldwincountyschools.org) to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



# BUILDING SCHOOL AND PARENT CAPACITY

The BCSD will build partnerships between its Title I Schools, families, and community with the goal of developing mutual support for student achievement. To develop capacity for this support, the BCSD will implement a variety of family and community engagement initiatives.

- The BCSD will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. The district works with its Title I schools to help families understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. The State’s challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings. In addition, the district and school websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, materials for at-home learning.
- The BCSD Governance Team, made up of parent representatives from each Title I school, advises the district and schools on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the Governance Team. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.
- The BCSD will coordinate and integrate the district’s family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Ready days, Middle and High School Transition Activities, and College and Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.
- The BCSD will conduct four training sessions during the school year for principals and school Family Engagement Coordinators to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. The BCSD will also host training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments.
- The BCSD will ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents’ preferred language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.





# PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, the BCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Family Engagement Feedback.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the Forum to facilitate group discussions related to Title I services and to design strategies for more effective family engagement. The BCSD will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, remove possible barriers to parent participation, and revise its parent and family engagement policies.

## Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

The Title I Director will also communicate and collaborate with parents of homeless, foster care and neglected/delinquent students.

## Adoption

This district-wide parent and family engagement policy will be developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy will be adopted by the Baldwin County School District by July 26, 2025, and will be in effect for the 2025-2026 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during the first week of the fall semester.



# MARK YOUR CALENDARS

## For Parents

Annual Parent Survey  
April/May, 2025

Family Improvement Forum  
April/May 2025  
Local school site

State of the District  
April/May, 2025  
County Board Office

## For Schools

Local School Governance Team Meetings

Student-Parent Teacher Conferences

Principal and FEC Meetings

All Meetings Posted on School Calendar

Family Engagement Events

