



IVY PREPARATORY ACADEMY AT GWINNETT

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PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY



WHAT IS FAMILY ENGAGEMENT?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other activities including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved 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 described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

ABOUT THE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

In support of strengthening scholar academic achievement, Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett (IPAG) 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 as a Title I school. This plan will describe IPAG's commitment to engage families in the education of their scholars and to build the capacity as a Title I school to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and scholar 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 the Every Student Succeeds Act (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. Consistent with Section 1116, IPAG will work as a Title I school to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

During the annual Parent Input Meeting on May 10, 2017, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2017-2018 school year. The district sent an email to 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 Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Parents were provided an additional Parent Input Meeting on July 29, 2017.

Additionally, IPAG used its Parent Advisory Council to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the 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. All feedback received by July was included with the policy for this school year. The district parent and family engagement policy can be found posted on the district website, will be distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early in the school year, and made available in the schools' main office.



ACHIEVE. BELIEVE. SUCCEED.



STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOL

The family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools receive notifications and resources and the FEC helps to improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold regular meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

The district will convene a summit in March for the principal and FECs 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

Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY18 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Furthermore, IPAG will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved as a Title I school to support family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their assessed needs and parent recommendations.



Ivy Preparatory Academy will host an annual Parent Input Meeting in May for parents to provide suggestions how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year. Parent Feedback Forms and Surveys from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.



ACHIEVE. BELIEVE. SUCCEED.

IVY PREPARATORY ACADEMY

OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEANINGFUL PARENT CONSULTATION

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district 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.

STATE OF THE SCHOOL ADDRESS

February 8, 2018

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Ivy Preparatory Academy Network as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 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.

ANNUAL PARENT INPUT MEETING

May 9, 2018

During this meeting, IPAG will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. IPAG will send invitations home and email and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the Parent Input Meeting will also be made available on the district website.

Parent 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 program as well as a section for parents to provide comments.

ACHIEVE. BELIEVE. SUCCEED.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Ivy Preparatory Academy will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following districtwide activities and programs such as Parent Academy, Principal's Coffee, Parent University Workshop series (Unpacking the Standards, Math Matters Links to Literacy, Tech Tips, and Milestones Ready), Curriculum Nights, Family Math Nights, and Family ELA Nights.



OF PARENTS

Ivy Preparatory Academy will work to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their scholar's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. IPAG will provide the Parent University Workshop Series for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia. Dates and locations for these workshop, Parent-Teacher Conferences, and Academic Informational Sessions will be emailed, posted on the district website, and shared through the district's newsletter.

IPAG will also provide resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, to help parents work with their scholar at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at school for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources, IPAG technology specialist will partner with FEC to host a Tech workshop for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced.

Ivy Preparatory Academy has established a Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council, as well. The district will also encourage collaboration and participation with community partners by posting recordings of District Meetings, Annual Title I Meetings, and Parent Workshops on the website and increase participation by utilizing video conferencing technology to accommodate the schedules of our valuable partners.

IPAG will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local program and other federal and state funded programs for planning focused on family engagement activities. IPAG will coordinate with programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

OF SCHOOL STAFF

Ivy Preparatory Academy will host monthly Principal's Coffee's and IPA Town Hall Meetings during the school year for principals, district administration, and school FECs to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. Trainings will be delivered to the faculty and staff, as well. IPAG will host trainings for school staff and faculty that will focus on understand family engagement, creating welcoming environments, and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities are available to all parents. IPAG is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. During Summer Institute, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language (where applicable) and providing interpreters at parent events and meetings (where applicable). Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school text systems, district websites, local media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT EVALUATION

Each year, Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett 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 school through an annual parent survey and the Parent Input Meetings.

In April, IPAG 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 sent via email and posted on the district websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett will also use the Annual Parent Input Meeting to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement. IPAG will use the findings from the Annual Parent Input Meetings, State of the School Address, and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to 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 efforts 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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

FOR SCHOOLS

**Summer Institute
(for faculty and staff)
July 24-28, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**Principal's Coffee
September 13, 2017
October 4, 2017
November 1, 2017
December 6, 2017
January 10, 2018
February 7, 2018
March 7, 2018
April 11, 2018**

FOR PARENTS

**Parent Academy
July 29, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**Open House
September 5, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**Parent/Teacher Conference
September 20, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**Annual Title I Meeting
September 28, 2017
& October 4, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**Parent Town Hall
September 28, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**Parent/Teacher Conference
December 13, 2017
IPA Gwinnett**

**State of the Schools
February 8, 2018
IPA Kirkwood**

**Annual Parent Input
Meetings #1/2
May 9 & 12, 2018
IPA Gwinnett**

ADOPTION

This districtwide parent and family engagement policy has been 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 was adopted by Ivy Preparatory Academy at Gwinnett on July 29, 2017 and will be in effect for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before September 1, 2017.