

EFFINGHAM COUNTY PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN for Title I Schools

The Effingham County School System believes that successful schooling is a shared responsibility requiring commitment and collaboration among parents, faculty, and staff. Therefore, the Effingham County Board of Education affirms and assures the rights of parents and teachers to be given opportunities to participate in planning, design, and implementation of activities funded by Title I of which their children are being served. To support this effort, at least 1% of the system allocation will be used for parental involvement and procedures shall be established to ensure that all parental involvement activities are organized, systematic, and ongoing. To establish communication between parents, teachers, and administrators and receive input from all stakeholders, a minimum of one public meeting will be held each year at the system level and each Title I school.

I. Effingham County School System will involve parents in the joint development of the LEA Plan, which includes a parental involvement plan. In addition, each Title I eligible school shall develop a school plan with input from parents. This shall include the parental involvement plans, school plans, school compacts, school-wide school plans, targeted assistance plans and in the process of school review and improvement through the use of parent surveys, membership on committees, school-wide planning teams, school councils, SACS, and membership on school improvement teams. An annual meeting will be held at a convenient time to which all parents of participating children shall be invited and encouraged to attend. At this time, parents will be provided an opportunity to have input into the planning, design, and implementation of the Local Plan, which includes a parental involvement plan. A system-wide advisory council composed of parents, teachers, and administrators will be formulated to address needs of the Title I program and each school will devise school councils. Information from these councils and the results from spring survey will be used in developing the plan. Copies of the preliminary plan will be presented to the advisory council for review and approval. Copies of the Local Plan, which includes the parental involvement, will be made available at the Board of Education for parent review, if requested; and the parental involvement plan will be included in the student handbook and distributed to parents of participating children within the first week of school.

Additional activities will be held periodically during the school year and may include, but may not be limited to the following:

- A. Notifying each child's parents that their child has been selected to participate in Title I activities and communicating reasons for selection with parents.
- B. Providing explanation about the Title I program, its requirements, and their rights to be involved.
- C. Providing student performance profiles/ progress report to parents.
- D. Providing parent-teacher conference days and anytime during the year, annual open house, and parent meetings.
- E. Providing flexible meetings for parents at individual school sites and/or central location.
- F. Providing opportunity for parents to visit and volunteer in Title I classrooms, and participate in other activities of the school.
- G. Disseminating survey forms for input of ideas and parenting newsletters.
- H. Providing home visits, transportation, and childcare providers.
- I. Providing a description and explanation of the curriculum, assessment instrument, and proficiency level in school handbooks, parenting meeting and committees.
- J. Providing individual student assessment results with interpretation results.
- K. Providing parent resource centers.
- L. Involving parents in the evaluation of the parental involvement plan and identifying barriers to greater participation by parents.
- M. Providing Parent Involvement Facilitators and Family Services Coordinators.
- N. Notifying each child's parents of the results of the annual school review of adequate yearly progress (AYP) for parental input opportunities on school improvement plan.
- O. Notifying parents if a school has been identified for school improvement, corrective action, or restructuring. The notification will include the following elements:
 - An explanation of what identification means, and how the school compares to the other schools in the system;
 - The reason for the identification;
 - What the school is doing to address the problem of low achievement;
 - What the system is doing to help the school address the problem of low achievement;
 - How parents can become involved in addressing the school's academic problems;
 - The parents' options for public school choice or supplemental educational services.
- P. Providing required notices and other communication in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parent can understand.
- Q. Notifying parents at the beginning of each school year that they may request qualification of their child's teacher.

R. Providing parents notice if a teacher who is not highly qualified teaches their child four or more consecutive weeks.

II. The Effingham County School System will, with schools' assistance, involve parents in the process of school review and improvement. At least one meeting at the system level and at each individual school will be held to discuss assessment results, what the results mean, the curriculum, and ways to improve student's performance.

III. The Effingham County School System will reserve at least 1% of the system allocation for parental involvement, including promoting family literacy and parenting skills and distribute 95% of this reserve directly to served schools. In addition to their school allocations, parental involvement funds are distributed to schools based on strategies identified in their school improvement plans. Most of the parental involvement activities occur at school site but when there is a mutual strategy, funds are reserved at system level and activities may be provided in a central location, each site, and/or several sites for participation of all parents. At least 95% of the reserved funds will be distributed to eligible schools. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, involve parents in the decision regarding how funds are allotted for parental involvement activities. Parents can participate in decisions regarding how funds are allotted for parental involvement activities by completing surveys, serving on advisory council, school councils, and school planning teams, and attending annual meetings at system and at each school.

IV. The Effingham County School System will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement programs to improve student academic achievement and school performance.

A. The Title I coordinator and at least one staff member from each school will attend SDE parent involvement training, national conferences and share information with all Title I schools. Additional information about research proven strategies and programs will be shared with all schools and professional development will be provided.

B. Title I teachers and regular staff development funds will be utilized to provide professional development.

C. The technology department will provide support to school personnel in ways to increase parental involvement and student achievement utilizing computers.

D. The Title I program is also in partnership with the Even Start Family Literacy TEAM program to provide information and resources to assist parents in ways to help their child do better in school.

The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Even Start Family Literacy Program, Safe and Drug Free School, EIP, REP, and Bright From the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. Staff from the Title I program, Bright From the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Even Start, Head Start, and Early Intervention Program (EIP) will attend seminars, workshops, and conferences together, if appropriate. All programs will coordinate their parenting activities, information, and resources to maximize parental involvement efforts and increase participation of the parents. As appropriate, parents from each of the programs will be invited to attend joint parental involvement activities. The Even Start Program will provide transportation for eligible families. Childcare and food for parenting sessions will be a joint effort. The Resource Coordinators of Head Start, Bright From the Start Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning, Even Start, and Kindergarten teachers will collaborate on transition activities for PreKindergarten parents and share information on available community services. To integrate services, communication with other programs will be ongoing. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools and parents, conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the plan. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents, giving particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, or have limited English proficiency or limited literacy, or any racial or ethnic background. During system and schools annual meetings and advisory council meetings, parents, teachers, support staff, and administrators are given a questionnaire to ascertain the effectiveness of the plan and identify barriers to greater participation. A survey is also distributed to all parents of participating children. In addition, each school conducts a needs assessment and maintains and submits documentation of parenting activities and parent contacts to the Title I Coordinator. The findings of this evaluation will be used to revise or design strategies to increase parent participation.

VIII. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools and parents, use the findings of the evaluations in designing strategies for school improvement and revising, if necessary, LEA and schools' parental involvement plans. The findings of the needs assessment, questionnaire, and parent contact logs, evaluation of parenting activities, and survey will be used for improving schools and the Title I program. The system and schools' parental involvement plans will be revised or strategies will be designed to reflect suggestions and recommendations of the parents, teachers, and administrators, when feasible. If the parents are still not satisfied with plan, comments will be submitted with plan and a copy will be kept on file.

IX. The Effingham County School System will, with schools' assistance, provide assistance to participating parents in such areas as understanding the following:

A. National Education Goals (NCLB Act of 2001).

- B. State content standards and student performance standards.
- C. School improvement and corrective action process, if applicable.
- D. Components of a school-wide program, if applicable.
- E. Components of a targeted assistance program, if applicable.
- F. State and local assessments.

G. Requirement of Title I, Part A.

Assistance will be provided, for A – G, at parent orientation, open house, PTA/Booster Club meetings, parent training sessions, workshop, seminars, school councils meetings, annual meetings, school planning team meetings, parent-teacher conferences, and other scheduled meetings. Newsletters, flyers, brochures, report cards, and progress reports will also be published to aid parents in understanding the requirements and submitted to local media.

H. Ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators to improve the performance of their children. Parents can learn ways to monitor child's progress by attending parent training sessions, conferences and/or seminars, parent-teacher conferences, participate in interactivity literacy activities between parent and child at school and in the home, and attend parent-teacher conferences. Even Start is planning a parent university and parents will be given the opportunity to attend. Parents can also review progress reports and report cards.

I. Ways parents participate in decisions relating to the education of their children.

Parents can serve on school planning teams/SACS, attend parent-teacher conferences, school council, advisory committees, PTA, SST, and annual meetings.

The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, provide

Materials and parent training sessions to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement and school performance by coordinating our efforts with the adult education program, adult literacy program, DFCS - TANF, Even Start, County Extension, and other community agencies. Material and supplies are available for parent checkout in the school parenting center/room and Even Start program such as take home bags, accelerated reading books, take-home computers for Even Start families, PAT program, and activities packets. Parenting sessions, as Helping Your Child Learn Series, Make & Take, and Child Development workshops, are provided in collaboration with other community-based programs as DFCS, County Extension Office, United Way, etc.

XI. The Effingham County School System will, with schools' assistance and parents, teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff educate in the value and utility of contributions of parents. Training will include strategies on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners; how to implement and coordinate parent programs; and how to build ties between home and school. Professional Development will be provided for all staff members through training sessions, conferences and publication. This training will be on going and systematic with continuous follow-up and feed back.

XII. The Effingham County School System will build the school's and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement by developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities and providing information about opportunities for their participation, and encouraging the formation of partnerships between the schools, the local businesses, and the parents. The system and each school have formulated partnership

with local community groups and businesses. These groups provide resources to schools by providing instructional support to the school as career day, literacy day, reading to classes, mentoring to students, instructional aids, and other roles as identified by schools. The business partner also has made allowances for a few parents to attend some of the special functions at child's school. Family Connection and Lutheran Services of Georgia have provided additional assistance to Even Start to provide a Family Literacy Summer Camp.

XI. The Effingham County School System has established a district-wide parent advisory council to provide advises on all matters related to parental involvement. During the annual meeting, on May 18, 2004, several parents volunteered to serve on the advisory committee. The committee met and agreed to meet at least three times a year and as needed. Eight members were presented for the meeting on December 14, 2004, March 8, 2005 and May 12, 2005.

XII. The Effingham County School System will, with schools assistance, arrange district-wide meetings at a variety times and may provide transportation or child care as such services relate to parental involvement. At least one annual meeting will be held. A letter of invitation will be sent to all parents of participating children. The meeting will be held in the morning and late afternoon with drop-in throughout the next two day. The advisory committee members are polled for the best day and time for meetings.

XV. The Effingham County School System may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training through school councils at each school, as appropriate and feasible.

XVI. The Effingham County School System may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement, when funds become available. At present, the Even Start program has several certified Parent Educators (PAT). Parents will be recruited for the Even Start program.

XVII. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, conduct other activities, as appropriate and feasible, such as parent resource centers and opportunities for parents to learn about child development and child rearing issues beginning at birth of a child, that are designed to help parents become full partners in the education of their children.

Each school has established a parent resource room or area with resource materials for parents to checkout and when funds become available establish an on-site parent resources center with a coordinator. At present, the Title I program is in partnership with Even Start and Title I parents are referred to the Even Start Family Literacy Center. At this center, parents are provided information, materials, resources, and training that will enable them to help their children learn. Adult education, child development, interactive literacy activities between parent and child, and technology training, along with food and special incentives, are also provided.

XVIII. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, collect all unsatisfactory parent comments regarding the System Plan and submit with System Plan to the DOE.

XIX. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as childcare, transportation, conference fee, travel and etc. upon parents request.

XX. The Effingham County School System will, with assistance of its schools, to the extent possible, provide full opportunities for the participation of all parents, including parents with LEP, disabilities, and migratory children. To the extent practicable, school profiles and information related to schools, meetings, and other activities will be sent home in the language that parents can understand and, upon request, in the language spoken at home. The DOE website will be used to provide written communication in the language parents can understand. Special education services will also be used as resources and interpreters will be provided as needed to carry out this process.

ADOPTION OF PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN: This District wide Parental Involvement Plan has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in the programs under the NCLB Act, as evidenced by the following signatures. The NCLB Advisory Committee and parents, teachers, administrators, and other stakeholders adopted this plan on April 27, 2006, at the district-wide annual meeting and will be in effect for the period of one year. The Effingham County School System will distribute this plan to all parents of participating children on or before the 20th school day.