

Title I Parent Involvement Policy

Cartersville Elementary School

2009-2010

Parental involvement is a key element in the academic success of students. The purpose of the Parental Involvement Policy is to establish guidelines and outline programs for enhancing parental involvement. This policy was developed by parents, Title I teachers, and the Parent Involvement Coordinator. Additionally, other stake holders were asked to review the policy.

In order to foster a positive relationship between parents and the schools, general meetings are conducted throughout the school year. These informational meetings include:

- CES Open House
- Title I Open House
- Parent-Teacher-Child (PTC) meetings
- Annual Parent Curriculum Night
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Limited English Proficient (LEP) Parent Orientation
- Family Discovery Night
- Local School Council Meetings

In addition, workshops for the parents of Title I students are conducted throughout the year. These workshops focus on the following topics:

- Math Literacy
 - Changing Times in the Classroom
 - Georgia Performance Standards and Manipulatives
- Reading with Children
 - How to make the most of reading with your child
- Literacy
 - Georgia's Performance Standards and Curriculum "Talks"/Trainings

Enhancing communication between school and home is an important goal of the Title I program. In order to inform parents of school events, the schools provide newsletters, web sites, and announcements. When possible, information is provided in English and Spanish. Parent/teacher conferences are conducted throughout the year. Translators are available to assist when needed. Title I and regular classroom teachers make referrals to the school counselor when situations arise. The Cartersville City Schools Social Workers, along with the Cartersville City Schools Parent Involvement Coordinator contacts parents, makes home visits, and assists families with acquiring the resources needed in order to help children be successful in school. Additional information such as the calendar of school events, parent tips, news, PTC meetings, and student handbooks for parents is available at the school's website www.cartersville.k12.ga.us.

Parents are encouraged to utilize the Parent Resource room at Cartersville Elementary. The resource room is made available and communicated to parents through school newsletters, counselor updates and flyers, student agendas, ConnectEd, and through school PTC meetings, trainings, and workshops. Additional resources, kits, games, and technology will be added as funding permits.

Cartersville Elementary School utilizes the district's Parent Mentor to enhance communication to parents on student learning, parenting, volunteering, and the special and specific needs of students and their families. *ConnectEd* is an automated telephone messaging system that is also used to provide Title I parents with announcements, meeting reminders, attendance, and other pertinent school information. PowerSchool Parent has also been added to increase parent involvement through the parent portal for student information on grades, attendance, and discipline.

Cartersville Elementary also utilizes a Title I Literacy and Math coach to support in the delivery of best instructional practices to all students. The Title I coaches and the Title I Instructional Lead Teacher are involved with the on-going professional learning and training for teachers and parent offered during the year.

Community resources shall be used to strengthen schools, families, and support programs. Business partners and service groups shall be engaged with our school in meaningful collaboration to advance student learning. Community business partners shall have representation and advisory responsibilities on the School Council as set by Georgia state law. This collaboration shall promote parent participation in student education.

We believe that parents are more likely to make their child's education a priority when parents are involved in the instructional processes at school. At CES, our team, consisting of parents, students, community members, faculty and staff, also believes parent involvement is crucial to the success of our students. We strive to enable all students to be responsible, productive, caring citizens and lifelong learners in an ever changing, often challenging society.

To attain our goals for parent involvement, we will make every effort to coordinate parent involvement that includes a broad range of programs based on the results and responses of the parent involvement surveys.

The Title I program works with Pre-K, the Housing Authority, the Boys and Girls Club, and the Hands of Christ After School programs at First Presbyterian Church and Douglas Street United Methodist Church, and the 20 Additional Day Program. These partnerships work collaboratively to improve student achievement, encourage parental involvement, promote family literacy, and foster a smooth transition from home to school. Parent workshops are planned in conjunction with these programs. Title I personnel also meet with the Bartow Collaborative, Learning for Success, and the Cartersville City Hispanic Outreach in order to provide opportunities for parents to have access to the information and resources they need to help their children.

Various accountability measures are in place to ensure that the needs of students are addressed. The Parent-School Compact outlines the responsibilities of parents, students, teachers and administrators. The Cartersville School System Student Code of Conduct and

Discipline Procedures make parents and students aware of acceptable behaviors and the consequences of violating those expectations. Regular progress reports and report cards provide information to help parents monitor their child's academic progress. Parents are encouraged to meet with teachers to address specific concerns and areas of need.

The Title I Parent Involvement Policy will be updated annually and made available for review by parents, staff, and students at each school. The school policy will also be sent home and available on the system and school website for students and parents. A needs assessment will be conducted each year to determine what areas need to be addressed through workshops and meetings, and to assess the quality of communication between home and school.