



Gary Districtwide Parental Involvement Policy
School Year 2021-2022

Gary Community School (GCSC), in its efforts to meet the requirements of Every Students Succeeds Acts (ESSA), agrees to enlist the help of parents in creating a learning environment that promotes academic excellence and supports parental involvement. GCSC commits to establishing and honoring the following policies:

- Each school will convene at least one annual Title 1 meeting during the first quarter of the school year. To accommodate the schedules of parents at least one meeting will be held in the evening.
- During the annual Title 1 meeting, (September or October) parents will be informed of their rights as well as the requirements for meeting the mandates of the federally funded Title 1 Program
- Whenever possible, meetings and parent/teacher conferences will be scheduled to accommodate the needs of both working and non-working parents
- In order to support each Title 1 school, the lead Parent Liaison and the Federal Programs director will meet with each principal and school-level Title 1 staff prior to each annual Title 1 meeting to support the creation of the agenda, activities, and information to be shared with the parents. Support will be provided through the principal meetings and/or school-level meetings.
- Parents will be invited and encouraged to participate in each school's School Improvement Committee meetings. The parents and staff participating in the committee will conduct an annual review of the following:
 - Parent Involvement Policy
 - Strategic Plan
 - School-wide Improvement Plan
 - Home-School Compact
- Parents will be provided school-related information that is disseminated in a timely manner. Information will include, but is not limited to:
 - Description/Explanation of school's curriculum, including at-home resources for parents and students to sign in to extend and reinforce the learning through the online curriculum resources associated with the in-school resources
 - Academic Assessment forms

- ILEARN (3RD-8TH)
 - SAT (High school)
 - IREAD3 (3RD)
 - iReady (K-8th)
 - WIDA (K-12TH)
 - Expected proficiency levels of students
- Opportunities for parents to participate in the decision-making process, including through parent-teacher organizations to provide feedback to school leaders
- Parent Group(s) meets regularly with the principal
- Materials & Training on how parents can improve student achievement (parent workshops)
- Educational programs that builds ties between home and school (such as First Steps and other community programs)
- As needed and wherever possible, information will be translated for the annual meeting and both written and spoken form given in both languages. Interpretation and translation services will be offered to all families who identify other languages on the Home Language Survey or to any others who speak a primary language other than English.
- Communicate with parents via website, Facebook, Alert Now, marquee and monthly newsletter, Instagram, text, email, and a letter sent home.
- Additionally, each school will consent to the following:
 - Encouraging partnerships with community-based organizations and businesses
 - Acknowledge parent feedback that is communicated via surveys, written correspondence, etc
 - Provide a Parent Liaison to connect between school and community to increase parent communication and participation.
- This liaison will also provide training to educators on how to best engage families, respect the ability of parents to serve as a child's first teacher, and improve the home-school connection. This will occur at least once annually through the Title I annual parent meeting
- Establishing and maintaining a parent resource room facilitated by the parent liaison
- Scheduling Parent/Teacher Conferences in the Fall and as needed during the school year
- Encouraging and supporting ongoing communication with each School's Parent Group
- Parents can always request more support by emailing the school or FACE Liaison, or by emailing the teacher. The district offers other opportunities for parents to share the need for support, including in-person through front office staff and parent/teacher conference.
- Each spring, the District has several opportunities for incoming students to learn about their new schools, including students transitioning from Pre-Kindergarten. These events, such as Kindergarten round-up, will include the opportunity for Head Start to have a physical presence at the building for Head Start families to receive coordinated support from both Head Start as well as GCSC. The District will attempt to have private and other community preschools present for the same support. Public and private/community preschool staff will also be able to collaborate at these parent events to share information, coordinate curricula, and more.