

**JOHNSON COUNTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL PARENT and FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY
2018-2019**

In order to promote student success, partnerships between parents, students, and school personnel are vital. Johnson County Elementary School believes parents are their children's primary teachers and their support is critical in our efforts to provide a quality education to the whole child. In order to maximize this effort, the following programs and activities are planned to involve parents at Johnson County Elementary School.

Support for JCES Home-School Partnerships:

- PTO Meetings (including focus on state testing)
- Student/Parent Celebration Night (Honors Night, Grade Level, etc.)
- Curriculum Spotlight Nights
- Literacy Night (November)
- Quality Time Family Movie Night
- Boo-Hoo Breakfast
- Parent Conferences (translator available)
- Title 1 Annual Meeting (August)
- Field Day
- Title 1 Planning Meeting (March and April)
- ESOL International Night (translator available)
- Grandparents' Literacy Day
- Petting Zoo
- Shoebox Parade
- JCES Book Fair Family Night
- Orientation/Open House (August)
- Parent Satisfaction Survey
- Community Walk
- Headstart/ PreK/Kindergarten Transition
- 5th/6th Transition
- Fall Festival (including parent workshop)
- Spring Fling (including parent workshop)
- Parent Satisfaction Survey (in multiple languages)
- Grades 2-5 Student/Parent Celebration Day
- School Council/Mother Board- Advisory Council
- Christmas Nursing Home Visit
- Kindergarten Student/Parent Celebration Day
- Parent/Family Picnic
- Harlie Fulford Library Visit

At the beginning of each school year, a Title 1 staff orientation meeting is held in order to help teachers understand the value of the contribution of parents. Professional learning is provided for all teachers to review the importance of effective communication with parents. Professional learning is also provided specifically for new teachers to help them see the importance of a good parent/teacher relationship, working with parents to bridge the gap between home and school, and effectively communicating with parents concerning student academics. In addition, the staff and parents have continuous training exploring how JCES uses Title 1 funds to support parents' and students' needs and familiarize them with their part in helping parents understand and support school goals.

Johnson County Elementary School encourages stakeholders to visit and take an active role as parents, family, and community engagement. JCES is committed to provide frequent reports to parents concerning student progress. Some ways may include:

Each spring, parent meetings are held to evaluate the programs for the year and to make revisions to the policy based on data for next year. To support parent schedules, morning and evening meetings will be held to include parents in the planning process for the school programs and revisions, updating of the school-parent compact, development of the parent survey, and updating the Family and Parent Engagement Policy. Additional meetings will address the School Improvement Plan (SIP) and review the district's comprehensive plan (CLIP). Each fall, an annual Title I Parent Meeting is held. Parents are informed of the school's participation in Title 1 with emphasis on the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, SIP, and school-parent compacts. It is followed by an orientation session where parents have the opportunity to learn about the curriculum (GSE, GPS), assessments (Georgia Milestones EOG) used to measure student growth, regular and parent-requested conferences, grade level expectations, grading system, special programs, and other activities that are aligned to the grade.

Revised May 23, 2018 with Stakeholder (Parental and Teacher) Input

Parents are encouraged to ask questions, visit the school, and conference with teachers throughout the school year. Parents are also given information on *parent feedback forms* which are sent home with students and housed on the district website. With commitment to building educational capacity, Johnson County Elementary School will assist parents understanding the state's curriculum standards (GSE/GPS), discuss state and local assessments with parents, and explain how the assessments are used to measure student progress, as well as, the proficiency levels the students are expected to meet. Based on availability, Title 1 funds will be used to provide transportation, correspondence, childcare, and home visits as needed.

Parents will be involved in the planning, the evaluation, and the improvement of the Title 1 programs in an organized and timely manner. PTO meetings and parent workshops will provide opportunities to discuss school programs and provide input. Johnson County Elementary School will also describe the curriculum and the assessments (formative and summative) used by the system to measure student progress in meeting the state's student achievement standards.

Workshops will be conducted to train parents in ways they can contribute to their child's progress. Ideas will be shared for monitoring attendance, completing homework, improving test taking strategies, and other ideas. Efforts will be made to provide an effective and supportive environment for students with disabilities and their parents through collaboration with special education personnel. Translation of pertinent information for ESOL students' parents will be provided. An annual survey will be shared with parents of Title 1 students through the use of school website, <http://www.johnson.k12.ga.us/es/>, or papers being sent home with the students. The feedback from the survey will be submitted to the LEA.

Therefore, in order to sustain strong ties between home, school, and community, Johnson County Elementary School will implement and coordinate parent programs on various topics such as: technology, literacy, interacting with teachers, and parenting skills. JCES will coordinate with other community programs like Babies Can't Wait, Head Start, and Even Start. In addition, formal compacts between parents, schools, and students will be activated to specify everyone's contributing role in reaching the individual student's achievement. Parents will be informed of their student's academic standing every four and a half weeks with a progress report, along with an end of the nine weeks report card. Parents will be given opportunities to suggest other activities that would provide additional support through the Title I surveys.

To improve parent, family, and community engagement, discretionary school level parent and family engagement policy components, the school will implement the following:

- If practicable, provide transportation and child care at no costs, to support parent participation in parent meetings. The school will also align with high school students needing volunteer hours to provide child care.
- In addition to having school meeting during the day and evening, the school principal or counselor will contact the district parent liaison to provide supplemental in-home conferences with parents unable to attend at school meetings.
- The Title I school-wide council meeting will be held each spring. In addition to all parents of Title 1 students being invited, the council is specifically sought to ensure at least a minimal level of parental involvement is provided.
- Community-based organizations and businesses, including religious organizations, are incorporated in parental involvement activities. Local churches will host parent meetings and/or share school information during church announcements as requested.