

School Parent and Family Engagement Plan
The Renaissance Center for Academic and Career Development
School Year 2020-2021
Revision Date 11/30/2020

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **The Renaissance Center** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The Renaissance Center agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If requested by parents, the school will schedule opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- (C) 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; and
- (D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Renaissance Center will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

- *A school-based Parent Advisory Council meets regularly with the principal and district leaders to provide input and suggestions on improvement plans.*
- *Parent surveys are conducted several times each school year to allow all parents to provide input and feedback. Parents and community stakeholders are involved in the annual comprehensive needs assessment that takes place during the spring of each school year.*
- *Each spring and summer, parents from each grade level are invited to participate in meetings to plan, review and improve programs included in the School Improvement Plan, Family Engagement Plan, and to jointly develop a School-Parent Compact. Parents may request additional meetings by contacting the school principal or the school parent involvement coordinator. The Parent Involvement Coordinator will update, at least annually, the School Family Engagement Plan based on parent and faculty input to meet the changing needs of parents and the school.*
- *Electronic copies of the Family Engagement Plan and Parent Compact are posted on school and district webpages on the first day of school*. An electronic copy of the School Improvement Plan is distributed each year by September 1*. Each of the three plans is posted on the school and district website by September 1 of each school year. Parents can request printed copies be sent home by responding to the school generated flyer, or by emailing the parent involvement coordinator. ***Due to the delayed start of school after COVID 19, timelines were delayed until the beginning of the second semester 2021.***
- *If the schoolwide program under section 1114(b) is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the principal will submit any parent comments to the Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs of Thomas County Schools.*

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

The Renaissance Center will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

- *A school-specific annual Title I meeting will be held within the first month of school to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation. Parents will be informed of their rights under Title I.**
- *For the 2020-2021 school year, the Annual Title I meeting will be conducted in August/September. An announcement will be sent home. ***Due to the delayed start of school after COVID 19, timelines were delayed.***

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Renaissance Center will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs.
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- *Electronic copies of the Family Engagement Plan and Printed copies of the Parent Compact are distributed to families in the Fall. An electronic copy of the School Improvement Plan is posted on the school website each year in the Fall. The three plans are posted on the school and district website by each school year. A careful review process including parents, school, and district leaders is completed each summer to ensure that required plans are written in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand by involving parents in the editing process. ***Due to the delayed start of school after COVID 19, timelines were delayed.***
- *Meetings will be offered at various times, such as morning and afternoon sessions whenever practical. Meetings will be provided in formats aligned to meet needs of our parents. Home visits often provide a chance to review meeting details, develop parent capacity, and solicit feedback. Parents may request alternative meeting formats by contacting the school parent involvement coordinator directly.**
- *School-based parent involvement coordinators are able to provide assistance with transportation or childcare if such issues present a barrier to participation in school events. These services may be scheduled by contacting the parent involvement coordinator directly.**

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

The Renaissance Center will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- *Parent surveys are conducted several times each school year to allow all parents a chance to provide input and feedback on programs implemented under schoolwide Title I plans, Family Engagement Plans, and or School-Parent Compacts.**
- *Each spring and summer, parents are invited to participate in meetings to plan, review and improve programs included in the School Improvement Plan, Family Engagement Plan, and to jointly develop a School-Parent Compact. Parents may request additional meetings by contacting the school principal or the school parent involvement coordinator.**
- *The Parent Compact is specifically linked to school and district improvement goals and contains specific information on the shared responsibility of parents, teachers, and students to develop grade appropriate skills and master the challenging state academic standards. The Parent Compact includes ways parents can support their children academically.**

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **The Renaissance Center** will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

- *Parent surveys are conducted several times each school year to allow all parents to provide input and feedback on how the district will spend the required 1% set aside for parent and family engagement. For the 2020-2021 school year, parent input directed the district to continue to provide a parent involvement coordinator for each Title I school. The value of this service exceeds the required 1% set-aside, and therefore satisfies this requirement. Parents who wish to suggest additional activities are offered the chance to provide input via surveys and meeting attendance throughout the school year.*

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Renaissance Center will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

- *District and school-based parent involvement coordinators implement plans to coordinate services and meeting times among schools and programs available in Thomas County. Each year area daycares, including Head Start and faith-based organizations are invited to tour Hand-In-Hand Primary in the spring enrollment season.**
- *The Renaissance Center will coordinate and integrate Parent and Family Engagement strategies in Part A with Parent and Family Engagement strategies under other programs. Parent and Family Engagement activities at the system level are coordinated with the Early Intervention Program (EIP), Migrant Program, English to Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL), Special Education, and our Preschool Program. In addition, Parent and Family Engagement activities are coordinated with community wide programs such as Family Connections, HeadStart, Thomasville Community Resource Center, Business Education Exchange Partnerships (B.E.E.), and Hands On Thomas County.**
- *School and district facilities are used by community groups allowing the community to become familiar with the structure and programs provided by the Thomas County School District.**
- *The district coordinates open house and orientation activities to provide support to students and families as they transition between elementary, middle, high schools and on to post-secondary education. The district coordinates services to ensure students and families benefit from early childhood programs, college and career readiness programs, and parent resources available in the community.**

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

**Due to the delayed start of school after COVID 19, building parent capacity has changed, and in-person events have become online meetings and parent conferences may be via phone conferences.*

The Renaissance Center will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging state academic standards;
- Providing parents with individual student academic assessment results and interpretation of those results;

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

- Providing materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement;
- Providing assistance* to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - the Georgia Standards of Excellence,
 - the State and local academic assessments including Georgia Milestones and alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
 - strategies parents can use to support their child's academic progress, and
 - how to partner with teachers to support their child's academic achievements.
- *Each school conducts an annual Title I meeting that reviews the details of the Title I program and provides families with information and resources to learn more about the state's academic standards.**
- *Parent involvement coordinators at each school conduct family engagement workshops* to present materials and strategies parents and family members can use to support their child's academic achievements, such as literacy training and using technology (including the harms of copyright piracy) to foster parent and family engagement. Additional topics will include information about academic assessments, curriculum requirements, and strategies to support their children academically. Title I schools will plan parent workshops based on survey results and parent requests as time and expertise allow. Parents are provided a handbook at the beginning of each school year that describes and explains the school curriculum. Written information and parent workshops are provided to explain assessments used to measure student progress and proficiency. Open houses and parent nights are held each year. School newsletters and publications are available to parents in print and on the school and system website.*
- *Each school hosts curriculum nights* and or family workshops at which the curriculum in use is explained, and forms of academic assessments and achievement expectations are presented.*
- *Elementary schools host parent teacher conferences* to share individual student academic assessment results and provide interpretation as needed.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Renaissance Center will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school by:

- *The Renaissance Center will, with the assistance of its parents, provide staff development concerning, the value of parental contributions, how to effectively engage parents, how to build ties between home and schools, and communicating in language parents can understand.*
- *Parent coordinators will solicit parent assistance in designing and implementing staff development with teachers and administrators.*
- *System federal programs staff and school level parent involvement coordinators provide professional learning opportunities and printed material throughout the school year for administrators, faculty, and staff to develop an understanding of the value of parental involvement. Parent involvement coordinators maintain a page on the school website to share information about outreach methods that are effective in establishing partnerships between families and schools. Certified and classified school personnel are encouraged to include parents as*

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

equal partners in the education process. Learning opportunities are not limited to local events but may include participation in regional, state, or national conferences.

- *Parent coordinators will encourage school staff to respond to parent requests for parent and family engagement activities.*
- *Parent coordinators will provide training on how to communicate in formats, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.*

The Renaissance Center will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by: (Parent requests reported at System PAC in March 2019).

- *Making technology resources available for parent use via parent resource rooms;*
- *Providing parent workshops on use of technology resources to support student achievement and monitoring student performance workshops on internet use and online student safety;*
- *Continuing family workshops on ways to provide academic support, share academic resources, and online resources; via ZOOM*
- *Scheduling alternative sessions to give multiple options for parents to attend;*
- *Offering translation services at family workshops;*
- *Communicating goals to all stakeholders and continue to solicit input; and*
- *Including curriculum-related updates in parent meetings.*

Standards and Activities for 2020-2021

Standard I: PARENTING: Helping all families establish home environments to support children as students.

| Activity/Strategies | Timeline | Completion Evidence | Person/Staff Responsible |
|---|--------------------------|---|--|
| School Improvement Planning meeting | Spring | School Improvement Plan Sign-in sheets | Principal Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Workshops- Parent Orientation, School Introduction, Volunteer Orientation | * | Sign-in sheets Workshop Evaluations | Parent Involvement Coordinator Principal Asst. Supt for Federal Programs |
| Title 1 Parent meeting | Fall 2020 Spring 2021 | Meeting agenda | Parent Involvement Coordinator Principal |
| Parent Surveys | Spring 2021 | Survey results | Parent Involvement Coordinator Principal |
| Family Engagement Policy and Parent Compact Revision | * | Revised copy available in front office and on the school's homepage | Parent Involvement Coordinator Principal |
| Blitz | * | Article | Parent Involvement Coordinator Hands on Thomas County Family Connection |

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

Standard II: Communication: Provide parents/guardians with appropriate information regarding programs and services.

| Activity/Strategies | Timeline | Completion Evidence | Person/Staff Responsible |
|---|--|---|---------------------------------|
| Renaissance Center Parent and Student Orientation Meeting | Ongoing | Signed parent and student orientation check sheet | Principal |
| Flyers/letters for special activities and workshops | Ongoing | Mailed to parents/guardians | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Open House | August 25, 2020 – September 3, 2020 9:00 am & 2:00 pm | Open House sign-in sheets | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Remind | Ongoing | Signed parent and student orientation check sheet | Principal |
| Odysseyware Parent Profile | Ongoing | Signed parent and student orientation check sheet | Principal |
| Odysseyware Parent Workshop | Ongoing | Sign-in sheets | Principal |

Standard III: Volunteering: Recruit and organize parent/guardians help and support.

| Activity/Strategies | Timeline | Completion Evidence | Person/Staff Responsible |
|----------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Volunteers for Workshop | * | Attendance (roster) and volunteer hours | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Volunteer Orientation | * | Train volunteer Sign in sheet | Parent Involvement Coordinator |

Standard IV: Learning at Home: Provide information and ideas to families about to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, conferences, and planning.

| Activity/Strategies | Timeline | Completion Evidence | Person/Staff Responsible |
|---|-----------------|--|--|
| Renaissance Center Parent and Student Orientation Meeting | Ongoing | Parent and student orientation Sign-in log | Principal |
| Parent Resource Room Materials | Ongoing | Check-in/check-out forms | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Parent Conferences (including IEP, and MTSS Meetings) | Ongoing | Sign-up for conference document number of and date of parent conferences attended | Teachers Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| School Websites and Teacher Websites | Update Monthly | Parent access to each method of communication | Teachers, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Technology Coordinator |

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

Standard V: Decision Making: Include parents in school decision, developing parent leaders and representatives.

| Activity/Strategies | Timeline | Completion Evidence | Person/Staff Responsible |
|--|------------------------|--|---|
| Parent Advisory Council (PAC) System and School Level meetings | Fall/Spring Meetings | Meeting minutes Sign-in sheets | Parent Involvement Coordinator Parent Advisory Council |
| Parent compact revision meetings | Spring | Agenda, sign-in sheets, Compacts | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Parent Conferences (including IEP, and MTSS Meetings) | Ongoing | Sign-up for conference document number of and date of parent conferences attended | Teachers Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Family Engagement Plan revision meetings | Spring | Agenda, sign-in sheets, Family Engagement Plan | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Policy revision meeting for: Title I School Improvement Plan, and the Targeted Assistance Plan | April and Summer | Policy, sign-in sheets, SIP, Targeted Assistance Plan | Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| School Council meetings | Four times a year, TBA | Meeting minutes | Principal Parent Involvement Coordinator |

Standard VI: Collaborating with the Community: Utilize resources and services from the communities to strengthen school programs, family practices and student learning.

| Activity/Strategies | Timeline | Completion Evidence | Person/Staff Responsible |
|---|------------------|---|---|
| BEE Partners and Volunteer Appreciation | March/April 2021 | Attendance (roster) | Principal Parent Involvement Coordinator |
| Family Connections Meeting | As scheduled* | Collect information from community businesses/organizations parents | Parent Involvement Coordinator |

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.

Standard I: PARENTING: Help families establish home environments to support children as students.

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Parent resource room materials | 4. *Family Engagement workshops |
| 2. *"Back to School Blitz" | 5. *Volunteer Orientation |
| 3. *Parent conferences as needed | 6. *Parent Orientation workshop |

Standard II: COMMUNICATION: Design effective forms of school-to-home and home-to-school communications about school programs and children's progress.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Family Engagement news on website | 7. *Annual Title I meeting |
| 2. Advertise restaurant nights | 8. *Volunteer orientation |
| 3. Family Engagement Policy online | 9. *Open house events |
| 4. *Odysseyware Parent workshop | 10. *"Back to school Blitz" |
| 5. Flyers and calendar for special activities | 11. Phone Calls about absent students |
| 6. *School programs and policies workshop, meet and greet | 12. Remind, emails, academic progress reports |

Standard III: VOLUNTEERING: Recruit and organize parent help and support group.

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. *Workshops | 3. *Volunteer Orientation |
| 2. *School events | |

Standard IV: LEARNING AT HOME: Provide information and ideas to families about how to help students at home with homework and other curriculum-related activities, conferences, and planning.

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. *Parent and student orientation meeting | 3. Parent Resource Room |
| 2. Parent conferences, as needed | 4. School Website and Teacher Websites |

Standard V: DECISION MAKING: Include parents in school decisions, developing parent leaders and representatives.

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. *School Improvement Plan revision meetings | 5. Parent conferences as needed |
| 2. *Family Engagement Plan revision meetings | 6. *School Council meetings |
| 3. *Parent Compact revision meetings | 7. *Fall & Spring District Parent Advisory Council meetings |
| 4. *Parent Advisory Council meetings | |

Standard VI: COLLABORATING WITH COMMUNITY: Identify and integrate resources and services from the community to strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning development.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1. *"Back to School Blitz" | 3. *Community support services workshops |
| 2. *Thomas County Library, Literacy Fair | 4. *Business Education Exchange and Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon |

* Due to COVID-19, some of the processes and events had to be postponed, changed or cancelled. Contact your school's Parent Involvement Coordinator if you have questions.