

# Thomas County Schools Parent Advisory Council

Title I *Family Engagement Workshop*  
*March 22, 2023*

# Thomas County Schools Parent Advisory Council

- \* *ESSER funding update & Survey- Joey Holland*
- \* *Exceptional Students: Alison Parker*
- \* *State Superintendent's PAC Update: Danniell Slocomb*
- \* *CLIP review & survey-Bob Dechman*
- \* *System Parent and Family Engagement Policy- Bob Dechman*
- \* *Principals review at each table:*
  - \* *School Improvement Plan*
  - \* *Parent Involvement Plan*

# ESSER Funding Update

Joey Holland, Deputy Superintendent for Finance  
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# ESSER Funding Update

Grant	Date	Thomas County Cumulative Awards	Status
CARES	March 2020	\$1,143,443	Expended in school year 2019-2020
CSSRA	December 2020	\$4,192,514	Expenditures completed 6/30/22
ARP	March 2021	\$10,492,099	Deadline to expend 9/30/2024
	Total	\$15,828,056	

# ESSER Funding Update

- ❑ *Total awarded to Thomas County Schools to date = \$15,828,056*
- ❑ *Total spent through 2/28/23 = \$10,105,537 (64%)*

# ESSER Funding Update

Subject	Budgeted Amount	Subject	Budgeted Amount
Salaries/benefits to offset funding cuts	\$1,249,781 - 1 year (8%)	Technology	\$3,168,320 (20%)
Hazard pay – meal distribution	\$26,596	Expanded Summer School - 4 years	\$809,584 (5%)
Recruitment and retention supplements	\$3,037,764 (19%)	Expanded Tutoring Program - 3 years	\$132,000 (1%)
Additional bus driver supplements	\$457,140 - 3 years (3%)	Additional staff to address learning loss - 3 years	\$1,507,914 (10%)
Instructional Expense	\$461,652 (3%)	Needs of homeless students	\$73,116

# ESSER Funding Update

Subject	Budgeted Amount	Subject	Budgeted Amount
Therapeutic Services (Pathways)	\$125,000 - 2 years	Personal protective equipment and cleaning	\$59,708
Needs of special education students, including summer school	\$843,118 - 3 years (5%)	Bus purchases	\$200,000 (1%)
Academic Coaches	\$623,999 - 2 years (4%)	Facilities/HVAC Renovation	\$1,450,668 (9%)
Professional Learning	\$364,216 (2%)	Additional Computer Technician - 3 yrs	\$163,650 (1%)
Parent communication software	\$67,004	Increased bus fuel expense	\$909,017 (6%)

# Supported Dual Enrollment



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Alison Parker  
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### Benefits of the program:

- No cost to student
- Acquire skills/certification
- Experience college coursework with support
- Receive support while learning how to advocate for themselves

### Courses available in the areas of:

- Criminal Justice
- Drafting
- Cosmetology
- Electrical
- Welding
- Nurse Aide
- AC/Heating
- Automotive

# State School Superintendent's PAC Meeting Update

Danniell Slocumb, Thomas County Parent Representative  
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# State PAC

## Danniell Slocumb, Thomas County

### Parent Involvement:

Do you see more parent involvement in small verses large communities?

No difference seen in small verses large communities.

Typical impact of parent involvement is due to:

- financial burden
- life situation
- single parent household

How does GA compare to the National average for parent involvement?

Varies depending on the situation.

You have to get creative with community involvement to draw parents in.

### GNETS program

Have they met and what is the future of the program?

They are still working on what to do with this program.

There are currently 2 lawsuits that are ongoing – one Federal and one State.

Future of the GNETS program is unknown – decision based on litigation & ruling - DC and Feds.

Made modifications to the program but not sure if it will continue or be viable going forward.

### CCRPI update

They are working on revising this to make it like a “report card” to help guide schools & teachers.

Incorporating more line items to know what to focus on.

More expressive to show school district strengths.

Accountability system / General assessment / educational groups – cutting back on 100+ scale summative-looking to do away with.

Better tools to understand the assessment

# GEORGIA'S SYSTEMS OF CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

- *Comprehensive Needs Assessment*
- *District Improvement Plan*
- *District Parent and Family Engagement Plan*
- *School Parent and Family Engagement Plan*
- *School-Parent Compact*



## District Improvement Goal 1: Improve Student Achievement

Use screening and instructional resources to max student learning, ongoing PL	Update Digital learning resources	Update instructional materials
Use data to provide individualized instruction	Employ additional teachers to reduce class sizes	Hire intervention teachers to provide supplemental instruction
Admin, Instructional Coaches, and teacher leaders monitor improvement initiatives and adjust throughout the year	Develop school specific MTSS manuals.	All staff participate in evidence based professional learning
Recruit teachers and administrators to fill system needs	Designate PICS to conduct family engagement workshops. Hire parent mentor in SPED dept.	


## District Improvement Goal 2: Reduce Disciplinary Removals


Teachers will implement classroom management protocols.	Implement School specific MTSS procedures to address academic and behavioral issues	Administrators monitor and identify root causes of student behaviors
Engage families in disciplinary interventions. Provide targeted workshops to reinforce positive climate	Enhance collaboration between guidance counselors and GAP staff.	Provide mental health counseling and behavior management support
Employ a front gate attendant to promote school security at TCCHS	Employ School-Based Health Care Liaison to transport students to the clinic	

## District Improvement Goal 3: Improve Quality of Instruction

Employ curriculum coordinator for Math	Continue New Teacher Induction and Peer mentoring program	Employ an instructional coordinator In grades PK-1, 2-4,5-8 and at Bishop Hall
Promote acquisition of additional certification by existing staff (ESOL, Gifted, TAPP, LAPP, SPED, Dyslexia)	Ensure district and school admin participate in ongoing PL	

# System Family Engagement Plan

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[Departments](#)

- Accountability & Assessment
- Curriculum & Instruction
- Gifted Education
- MERIT Program
- Exceptional Students
- Facilities & Maintenance
- Federal Programs
- Financial Services

[Board of Education](#) [Employment](#) [For Staff](#) [For Parents](#)

## THOMAS COUNTY SCHOOLS



## Federal Programs

Title I is part of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) enacted April 11, 1965. ESEA is an extensive statute which funds professional learning, instructional materials, parental involvement, and supplemental resources for primary and secondary education. The purpose of Title I is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

The Thomas County Schools' Title I Office is also responsible for Migrant Education, Parent Involvement, and Special Projects. Special Projects include Title III ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages), COGNIA District Accreditation, and Georgia Accreditation.

## Documents

- Useful Links
  - FY23 System Family Engagement Policy**
  - FY23 District Improvement Plan
  - Intradistrict Transfer Options - Thomas County Schools - FY23
  - Complaint Procedures
  - Parents' Right to Know
  - FY23 Foster Care Transportation Plan

# *System Family Engagement Plan*

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The Thomas County School System will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

The district will provide coordination and technical assistance to schools to facilitate parent and family engagement in the **planning, review, and improvement** of family engagement programs and activities, which include the District and School level Family Engagement Policy, the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), and School Improvement/Title I Schoolwide or Targeted Assistance Plans, and if applicable the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement Plans. The Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs reviews surveys in the spring and uses results to improve the family engagement program. **Building level meetings** are held to engage stakeholders in the **review and update of annual plans** listed above. Ideas and suggestions are researched and discussed with parents, teachers, and administrators. Teachers and administrators are encouraged to review and respond to parent suggestions.

# System Family Engagement Plan

## TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Thomas County School System will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, such as Thomas County Head Start, local pre-school providers, parent resources centers and other individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

Parent Involvement Coordinators are employed to work with the Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs to provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support services in **planning and implementing effective family engagement**. Parent Involvement Coordinators provide assistance at Title I schools by meeting with parents individually and in groups, by providing transportation and child care when appropriate for parent workshops, and by providing translation of information when needed. Programming will be coordinated to assist families in transitioning to elementary, middle, high, and post-secondary schools or careers.

**Parent and family engagement activities** at the system level are **coordinated between our Title I programs in our schools**. Title I, Part A activities are also coordinated with the Early Intervention Program (EIP), Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program, Title III English to Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL), Title VI Exceptional Education, Title XI McKinney Vento program, and our Preschool Program. In addition, parent and family engagement activities are **coordinated with community-wide programs** such as Family Connection, Certified Literate Community Project, Thomasville Community Resource Center, Business Education Exchange Partnerships (B.E.E.), Thomas County Homeless Coalition, The Treehouse Children's Advocacy Center, and Hands On Thomas County Volunteers.

# ***System Family Engagement Plan***

## **System Parent and Family Engagement Policy Evaluation and Feedback**

Some of the ways schools involve parents in the planning and implementation of the Parent and Family Engagement program include:

- ☐ Membership on the Parent Advisory Council
- ☐ Membership on the School Council
- ☐ Participation in focus groups to provide feedback
- ☐ Providing feedback as a school volunteer
- ☐ Participation in school events like open house or student reward activities.

1. Have you been given the opportunity to participate in the planning and implementation of the parental involvement program at your child's school?

\_\_\_\_\_Yes    \_\_\_\_\_No

If you answered no, do you have any suggestions about how we could improve parent involvement in the planning and evaluation of school and district involvement policies?

# System Family Engagement Plan

## ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Thomas County School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

Thomas County Schools maintains a Parent Advisory Council (PAC), comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents and family members served by Thomas County Schools to adequately represent the needs of the population for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. The Assistant Superintendent for Federal Programs is responsible for conducting PAC meetings on behalf of the System. PAC meetings are held each fall and spring to review the content and effectiveness of family engagement on the quality of our Title I school-wide programs. Parents, administrators, and Parent Involvement Coordinators from the Title I schools, along with system administrators, participate in these yearly meetings. Information is gathered and recorded from parents concerning barriers to parental involvement in all subgroups including economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficient, limited literacy, and racial or ethnic minorities. Parents are also encouraged to complete surveys from the Parent Involvement Coordinators. Results from these annual reviews and from the surveys are used to evaluate and update the System Family Engagement Policy and school based family engagement plans. These results are also used to design evidence-based strategies for more effective family engagement activities for the following school year.

# *System Family Engagement Plan*

Some of the ways schools involve parents in the process of school improvement include:

- ☐ Membership on the Parent Advisory Council
- ☐ Membership on the School Council
- ☐ Participation in focus groups to provide feedback
- ☐ Survey completion during the school year or at special events

2. Do you think the system has a good plan to involve parents in the process of school improvement?

\_\_\_\_\_Yes    \_\_\_\_\_No

If you answered no, please provide suggestions to improve how we involve parents in school improvement activities.

# *System Family Engagement Plan*

The school district is interested in planning events that are easy for all parents to attend. In order to do this, we like to be proactive about **removing barriers** to parent participation. The following list of items has been identified in the past as barriers that may keep parents from participating. Which of these do you feel is important to address?

3. Which of the following prevent parents from being able to participate in school functions, activities, and planning events? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Transportation
  - ☐ Child Care
  - ☐ Communication (advance notice)
  - ☐ Time of events
  - ☐ Other (please indicate):
-

# System Family Engagement Plan

## RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Thomas County School System will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Thomas County Schools shares the annual budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs during the system PAC each year. Each spring the system solicits feedback and input from parents and family members to evaluate and identify activities and programs for future implementation. Parents and family members also complete surveys in the spring of each year to provide input on how the 1 percent reservation is spent. For FY23, the following activities will be implemented:

- (a) hiring parent and family engagement coordinators at Title I schools to implement family engagement activities;
- (b) providing professional development for school personnel regarding parent and family engagement strategies;
- (c) supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community, and at school;
- (d) disseminating information on best practices focused on increasing the engagement of economically disadvantaged parents and family members; and
- (e) collaborating with community-based agencies, organizations, or employers with a record of success in improving parent and family engagement.

# System Family Engagement Plan

## District 1% Set Aside for Family Engagement



Each year the district is required to set aside 1% of the Title I budget to support parent and family engagement. During the 2022-2023 school year, the district set aside 15.3%. Some of the ways these funds are spent include:

- Salaries or supplements for parent involvement coordinators at our six Title I schools
- Supplies for parent involvement events
- Funding for professional learning for school faculty and parent involvement staff
- Educational materials for parent use
- Communication of Title I events and plans

What suggestions do you have concerning how the district should use the required 1% set aside for parent involvement funds?

# System Family Engagement Plan

## COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Thomas County School System will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: Title I, Part A, Early Intervention Program (EIP), Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program, Title III English to Speakers of Other Languages Program (ESOL), Title VI Exceptional Education, Title XI McKinney Vento program, and our Preschool Program, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Additionally, parent and family engagement activities are coordinated with community-wide programs such as Family Connection, Certified Literate Community Project, Thomasville Community Resource Center, Thomas County Head Start, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning, Business Education Exchange Partnerships (B.E.E.), Thomas County Homeless Coalition, The Treehouse Children's Advocacy Center, Hands On Thomas County Volunteers, and school booster groups. The school system uses a phone conference system in order to provide translation for parents on an as needed basis. Meeting notices and workshop materials are made available in print and online via school and district webpages. Families in need of translation are provided avenues to request support for meetings, school events, and workshops.

## ***System Family Engagement Plan***

What suggestions do you have to improve the coordination of parent and family engagement?

# System Family Engagement Plan

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The Thomas County School System will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff 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 schools by:

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 equal partners in the education process. Learning opportunities are not limited to local events but may include participation in regional, state, or national conferences. Teachers and staff are informed of the responsibility to communicate information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities to parents in a format, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.

# *System Family Engagement Plan*

## Building Capacity

6. What Parent and Family Engagement topics do you feel are important that school staff receive annual professional development? (Check all that apply)

- ☐ Effective parent communication, including effective meeting strategies
  - ☐ Ways to work with parents as equal partners
  - ☐ Ways to build working relationships between home and school
  - ☐ Other (please provide suggestions):
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# System Family Engagement Plan

## BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Thomas County School System will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, **build parents' capacity for strong family engagement** by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging state academic standards;
- The state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- The requirements of Title I, Part A;
- How to monitor their child's progress; and
- How to work with educators.

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. Report cards are sent home to parents, and open houses are held regularly at each school. School newsletters and the system publications are available to parents in print and on the system website. Parent involvement coordinators maintain a page on their school's **website** that provide parent support information. Each Title I school also has a **parent resource center** with a variety of free materials and items that can be borrowed, including computers to be used on site. Title I schools will plan **parent workshops** to present 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.

## System Family Engagement Plan

7. What topics would you suggest we present to ensure parents are empowered to advocate for their children? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Effective parent participation, including effective parent conference strategies
  - ☐ Ways to work with school and district staff as equal partners
  - ☐ Ways to volunteer your time or services at school
  - ☐ What to look for in school and district improvement plans
  - ☐ Other (please provide suggestions):  

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8. What Family Engagement activities would you like the district to offer next school year? Some of the ways schools promote Family and Community Engagement include: (Please check those we should continue)
- ☐ Open House
  - ☐ Participation in student reward activities
  - ☐ Workshops such as family literacy night, STEM night, Milestones information, etc.
  - ☐ Grandparents events, Moms events and Dads events
  - ☐ Harms of copyright piracy
  - ☐ Other: 

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## *System Family Engagement Plan*

9. Which of the following topics would you like to receive more information? (Check all that apply)
- ☐ Helping your child in school, homework tips and resources
  - ☐ School policies and procedures
  - ☐ Test taking skills, understanding test scores
  - ☐ Georgia Standards of Excellence (understanding the curriculum)
  - ☐ Other (please provide suggestions):  

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10. What kind of information and materials would you like to have available in the parent resource room at your child's school?

# Principal's Report

- *Review of School Improvement Plans*
- *Review of Parent Involvement Plans*
- *Follow-up Survey*

***Thank You For Choosing  
Thomas County Schools!***