



LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Working Together for Excellence Every Day."

**WELCOME !
LOWNDES COUNTY SCHOOLS
ANNUAL TITLE I
FAMILY AND COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT MEETING
2017-2018**



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Why are we here?

The Every Student Succeeds Act requires that each Title I School hold an Annual Meeting of Title I families for the purpose of...

- Informing you of your school's participation in Title I
- Explaining the requirements of Title I
- Explaining your rights as parents/families to be involved
- Informing you of School-Wide status and school designation
Priority, Alert, Focus and Reward



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What does it mean to be a Title I School?

- **Being a Title I school means receiving Federal funding (Title I dollars) to supplement the school's existing programs.**

These dollars are used for...

- Identifying students experiencing academic difficulties and providing timely assistance to help these students meet the State's challenging content standards
 - Purchasing supplemental staff/programs/materials/supplies
 - Conducting Parental Engagement meetings/trainings/activities
 - Recruiting/Hiring/Retaining Highly Qualified Teachers
- **Being a Title I school also means Family and community Engagement and parents' rights.**

Required Federal Guidelines for implementing Title I programs.

- **Student Achievement:** Establish and measure achievement standards based on Georgia Standards of Excellent (GSE)
- **Accountability:** No schools were identified as ALERT, FOCUS or PRIORITY
- **Professional Qualifications:** All teachers hired to teach core academic subjects in a Title I school must meet certain requirements. They must have full certification, a bachelor's degree and demonstrate competence in the subject. Parents of students in Title I schools are guaranteed annual notification of their "right to know" about teacher qualifications. Parents may request and receive from the district, information regarding the professional qualifications of the teachers.
- **Schools receiving funds:** Schools with enrollment of 40% or more students receiving free or reduced meals are eligible for Title I funds. By law, at least 1% of the total Title I, Part A allocation must be devoted to Family and Community Engagement by the District. Funds are *supplemental* (or in addition to) the regular funds provided to educate all children within the District.

Continued...

▣ **Family and Community Engagement:** Families are invited to participate in writing policies/plans on Family and Community Engagement for the district and school. The district/school is responsible for planning and conducting annual meetings with parents/families. The district/school is responsible for conducting parent/family workshops/training sessions. Family and Community Engagement strategies are coordinated among various federal education programs.

▣ **Parent Notification:** The district/school is responsible for sending parent notices throughout the year regarding the Title I program and progress throughout the year. Active Family and Community Engagement and volunteering is encouraged.

▣ **Testing/Assessment:** All schools participate in state-mandated testing



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Notification to Parents Regarding Teacher Qualifications

In compliance with the ESEA requirements, the Lowndes County School district notifies you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher. The following may be requested:

- Certification
- College major/certification or degree
- Qualifications of the paraprofessional

In addition, parents must be notified by the school when their child has been taught for 4 consecutive weeks by a Non Highly Qualified teacher.

****New Federal Law (ESSA) will take place in 2018****



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What is included in the Title I Policy?

The Title I Policy addresses how Title I funds will be utilized throughout the school system.

- Student academic assessments
- Additional assistance provided to struggling students
- Coordination and integration of federal funds and programs
- School programs including Migrant, Pre-school, School Choice, and Supplemental Educational Services as applicable.
- Family Engagement Strategies, including the School and District (LEA) Family and Community Engagement Policies

You, as a Title I Parent, have a right to be involved in the development/updating of the Title I Policies.



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Title I District and School Family and Community Engagement Policies

- With the involvement of teachers, parents, families, and community members, the Lowndes County School District annually reviews and revises the District and School Family and Community Engagement policies.
- All parents/families are invited and encouraged to give input at every Family and Community Engagement Team Meeting throughout the school year.
- These policies are available at the schools or the district office and also on the school and district websites.



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What is included in the School Wide Improvement Plan?

- **The SIP includes:**
 - A Needs Assessment and Summary of Data
 - Goals and Strategies to Address Academic Needs of Students
 - Professional Development Needs
 - Coordination of Resources/Comprehensive Budget
 - The School's Family and Community Engagement Policy
- **Title I parents, families, and community members have the right to be involved in the development of this plan. Opportunities to give input is available to all stakeholders throughout the school year.**

What is the School-Parent-Student Compact?

- The Compact is a commitment from the school, the parent, and the student to share in the responsibility for improved academic achievement
- The Compact is jointly developed by parents, teachers, staff members, and students. Each party is encouraged to provide input in the development/revision of the Compact. The Compact is updated at least annually. Multiple opportunities for input is provided throughout the school year at Family and Community Engagement Meetings
- Opportunities to give input is available to all parents, families, and community members throughout the school year
- **Title I parents, families, and community stakeholders have the right to be involved in the development of the School-Parent-Student Compact!**



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How is the evaluation of the Family and Community Engagement Policy Conducted?

- Evaluation of the Title I Policy is conducted annually. All Title I parents, families, and community stakeholders are invited to be a part of the evaluation process.
- Evaluation includes:
 - Analyzing Content and Effectiveness of the current policy
 - Identifying Barriers to parental involvement
 - Data/Input may include...
 - Parent Survey (Required)
 - Workshop Evaluations
 - Family and Community Engagement Team meetings and minutes



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Parent/Family Information Resources

- Lowndes County Schools (LCS) employ a District Family & Community Engagement. The Coordinator is available to assist and support parents/families, coordinate family engagement events and to conduct parent/family meetings at the school and district levels. The goals are to promote, coordinate and increase family engagement in each school. In addition, two Parent Liaisons will be available to assist individual schools.
- Family Engagement resources are also available at each school in the Parent-Family Information Resource Center (PIRC)



Family and Community Opportunities To Be Involved:

- Participate in Family Engagement Team meetings, Title I Annual Parent-Family meeting, Open House and School Council Meetings.
- Participate in classroom and school-wide activities, such as Lunch & Learn, Career Day, Field Day, Book Fair & Reading Events, Biography Blitz, Math workshops, Adventures in Learning, ABC & 1,2,3's of Learning, and more.
- Participate in the annual revision of all Title I documents.
- Attend parent-teacher conferences, where the Compact will be discussed, and extracurricular activities.



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Complaint Procedures

Grounds for Complaint: Any individual, organization or agency may file a complaint with LCS if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that LCS is violating a Federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under the ESSA guidelines. The complaint must allege a violation occurred not more than one year prior to the date the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing. Guidance for filing a complaint can be found on the GaDOE website or LCS website. You may also contact:
herbhamilton@lowndes.k12.ga.us



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Title I funds are provided to help support and provide every student with equal opportunities to a great education. Other programs that are considered for support through Federal funds in Lowndes County are:

- Migrant Education Program (MEP)
- Homeless (McKinney Vento Act)
- Neglected & Delinquent (N&D)
- Private Schools located in our District
- Special Education



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Request for Information

For more information regarding the Title I program or Family Engagement, please contact

herbhamilton@lowndes.k12.ga.us

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