

Spalding High School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success

2021–2022 School Year
Policy Revised 2/26/2021



Dexter Sands, Principal
433 Wilson Road
Griffin, GA 30223
770-229-3775
www.spaldingjags.org

What is Title I?

Spalding High is identified as a Title I school under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards. The goal is to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Jointly-Developed School Policy for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a policy that describes how Spalding High will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Spalding High values the contributions and engagement of parents and family members. The purpose is to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. Spalding High, in meaningful consultation with parents, jointly developed with and agreed on with, a written policy that will include relevant activities and actions that support effective parent and family engagement and strengthen student achievement. This plan describes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement, ways that Spalding High will implement and support specific family engagement activities and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

The policy is revised annually each spring. Spalding High involved parents in an organized, ongoing and timely manner in the planning, review and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A. Programs included the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School Improvement Plan, the School-Parent Compact, and the family engagement budget. Regular in-person or online meetings were held for parents to formulate suggestions, to participate in decisions relating to the education of their child and for staff to respond to any suggestions as soon as practicably possible. Parents were involved in the development of the policy by revising and developing the new policy in a group setting. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form and at in-person or online meetings. The plan is posted on the school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online and provide paper copies of the survey to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several in-person or online parent meetings and activities. The School Parent and Family Engagement Policy is then updated and distributed to parents and the local community. If the school improvement plan is not satisfactory, Spalding High will submit any unsatisfactory parent comments on the plan upon submission to the district.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Spalding High will provide full opportunities and information, to the extent practicable in a language parents understand, for the participation of parents and family members with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, a copy of the plan is distributed to all parents at Open House. It is also distributed to parents and the local community at parent engagement events. A copy of the plan is provided in the new student orientation packet, at in-person or online parent workshops and in the front office. Additionally, the plan is posted on the school website and via social media. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center which is located at Spalding High School's Counseling Office Room 102.

School-Parent Compact

As part of the jointly developed plan, Spalding High School and our families will jointly develop a School-Parent Compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact will detail how a partnership will be built and developed to help children achieve the State's high standards. This was a collaborative effort achieved when the school:

- Jointly developed a School-Parent Compact with parents through multiple in-person or online stakeholder meetings offered at two different times in which parents were able to give written and verbal feedback and suggestions, through online feedback forms on the website and in the school newsletter and notifying all parents of the invitation to participate and that the purpose of the in-person or online meeting is to review and revise the School-Parent Compact through the school system website, flyers, automated phone/email messaging system, social media, and newsletters.
- Created a compact that outlined how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement by using input from teachers on suggested learning strategies, parents on the type of support they need, and students on what would help them learn. Parents are encouraged to attend the in-person or online annual revision meetings held in the spring each year to review the compact and make suggestions based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the annual Title I parent survey that is also used as a tool to collect parent feedback regarding the current Title I programs and the compact.
- Described how they will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging State academic standards by the school providing specific activities/strategies to families for at home learning, and to promote student growth on identified school/grade level academic achievement goals. The family will utilize strategies provided by the school to support student learning. Teachers and families will partner to set reasonable expectations for student academic growth. The students will share responsibility for their learning targets jointly established with their teachers and families.

Annual Title I Meeting

We encourage and invite all parents to an evening of information and learning about our Title I program. The in-person or online meetings will cover our school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School Improvement Plan, the School-Parent Compact, and parents' requirements. Meeting information will be posted in the school newsletter, on the school website, via social media and through ParentLink. The in-person or online annual meetings will be held at a convenient time in August 2021 and will also be available to view online on the school website.

Communications

Spalding High School will promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach achievement goals. The school will take the following measures to provide parents of participating children information and supports by:

- Providing timely information about Title I programs by holding various events to engage parents in the academic success of their children including the in-person or online Annual Title I Meetings at the beginning of each school year, sharing the Title I Information Sheet in the student agenda, at student showcase nights, at in-person or online ongoing workshops, and in the parent resource center.
- Offering a flexible number of in-person or online meetings in the morning, afternoon or evening based on feedback from the fall and spring surveys.
- Offering meetings in flexible formats by holding in-person or online parent workshops and other meetings as well as other locations in the community, such as businesses and churches; and, provide information from in-person and online meetings and resources on the school web site in the form of printable and viewable material.
- Providing transportation to prevent barriers to parent and family engagement by offering to provide parents transportation to attend parent and family engagement events.
- Providing child care to prevent barriers to parent and family engagement by offering to provide parents child care while they attend parent and family engagement events.
- Addressing opportunities for regular in-person or online meetings if requested by parents to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child, and responding to parent requests for Title I programs/in-person or online meetings within 1-2 business days.
- Providing information related to the school and parent programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and in a language parents can understand. Additionally, information will be provided to parents in their native language and parents are directed to who to contact if translation is needed, translators are made available upon request, and parent-friendly language void of acronyms and educational lingo is used.
- Responding to parent requests by responding to parent requests for Title I services within 1-2 business days through a phone call, email, note or in-person contact.
- Distributing the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents, family members and the community at open house, in the new student orientation packet, on the school website, via social media, in the front office, at in-person or online parent workshops and in the school Parent Resource Center.
- Sending a monthly newsletter containing information on up-coming events, ways for parents to support their child's learning at home, and hosting in-person or online policy and school improvement meetings.
- Sending ParentLink announcements/reminders in advance of upcoming in-person or online parent engagement events, school planning, review or improvement meetings.



Reservation of Funds

School districts that receive more than \$500,000 in Title I funds are required to reserve 1% of funds for parent and family engagement activities. Spalding High School will take the following actions to engage parents in decisions about how Title I, Part A funds are spent by:

- Sharing the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs with parents by requesting input through fall and spring surveys and feedback forms at in-person or online workshops and stakeholder meetings, in the newsletter, and on the school website to determine how Title I funds should be spent.
- Involving parents in input opportunities for how the funds are used by notifying all stakeholders of the multiple in-person or online meetings at varying dates/times to provide input on the 1 percent reservation of parent engagement funds.
- Giving parents multiple opportunities to provide input on the 1 percent reservation of Title I parent engagement funds through the Parent Feedback form on-line on the website, and through surveys and in-person or online stakeholder meetings.

Coordination of Services

Spalding High will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs. The school will also conduct other activities that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by the school:

- Coordinating and integrating parent and family engagement programs, activities, and strategies with college and career ready resources or organizations (middle/high) or other programs by offering informational sessions and transition information.
- Coordinating with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide additional supports and resources to families by encouraging them to offer input in school improvement.
- Making resources available through a Parent Resource Center that contains school compact, parent engagement policy, brochures and other resources.

Building Capacity of School Staff

Spalding High School will provide in-person or online 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.
- How to reach out to, communicate with and work with parents as equal partners.
- Implementing and coordinating parent programs.
- Building ties between home and school.

The school will train staff by providing staff training by:

- Providing in-person or online trainings at grade level/faculty meetings.
- Providing online avenues to build staff capacity.
- Emailing staff information to build parent capacity with reflection questions/input.
- Sharing information in a parent friendly language.

Spalding High School will provide reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities as parents may request by:

- Providing monthly newsletters on the school's website that feature tips, games, web resources, and other activities, focusing on the identified school goals.
 - Providing information through open house, student showcase nights, in-person or online Title I Meetings, workshops, stakeholder meetings, and combined events with another program and community events, the new student orientation packet, a parent resource center, and at parent-teacher conferences.

The school will also take the following actions to provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities including:

- Providing information from in-person or online parent workshops to parents that may not be able to attend in person on the school's YouTube Channel or other forms of social media or through an email request.
- The school will use a variety of methods to support families including online instructional videos, online feedback opportunities, and transportation, childcare and translation/interpretation services.



Building Capacity for Family Engagement

Spalding High School will provide the following activities that have been chosen, in meaningful consultation with our parents, to be undertaken to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school to support their children's academic achievement:

- Engaging parents in the development of in-person or online training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training by asking and considering feedback from parents on training topics and methods for teachers, principals, and other educators and by using a parent co-presenter at the training.
- Providing necessary in-person or online literacy training for parents after the district has exhausted all other reasonable available sources of funding of such training by offering assistance to parents in the use of technology literacy to ensure parents have access to resources to assist their child in achieving academic success at various in-person or online meetings and workshops, such as open house, student showcase nights, and parent workshops.
- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses for activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related in-person or online meetings and trainings by taking requests from parents for these services and matching stated needs with available resources
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents by planning for in-person or online Parent Workshops with parents and providing opportunities for parents to have a role and co-present at parent engagement events.
- Maximizing parent and family engagement and parent participation by arranging in-person or online school meetings at a variety of times, providing online options by offering in-person or online parent workshops and other activities in the morning, afternoon, evening and on weekends, recording workshops or a video summary of the workshop with contact information and posting it on the school website and/or social media, by providing events in the community and sending information via email to parents who request information from the in-person or online workshop if they are not able to attend.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parent and family engagement by continually seeking input from parents and others on needs relating to communication with the school, through academic content assistance, from representatives of other schools regarding their parent engagement best practices, and providing online opportunities for families to be engaged.
- Encouraging parent participation on the districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental engagement in Title I, Part A programs by reaching out to and submitting a list of engaged parents to participate on the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC).
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations in engagement activities by actively seeking their input, as well as planning and carrying out activities in conjunction with such organizations.



Parent and Family Engagement

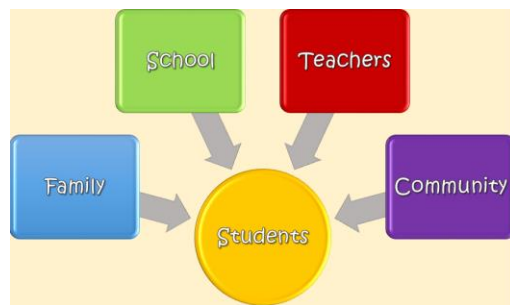
To Spalding High School, parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring that:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- 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

School Parent Resource Center

Come visit the school Parent Resource Center at the Spalding High School Counseling Office Room 102 to check out books, pamphlets, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child.

Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:30 am - 3:30 pm



District Parent Resource Center

Books, DVDs, pamphlets in identified languages, and computer access are available at the District Parent Resource Center located in Room B112 on 234 E. Taylor Street. The center is open Monday-Friday from 8:00 am - 4:00 pm and after hours by appointment.

Melinda Owens

District Family and Community Engagement Specialist

melinda.owens@gscs.org

770-229-3710 ext. 10363

Building Capacity of Parents

Spalding High School is committed to building parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement. The school will:

- Provide materials and in-person or online training to help parents work with their children to improve their child's achievement, such as in-person or online literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement by way of in-person or online parent workshops and on-line via the school and other web sites
- Provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as:
 - Description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school by teacher's course syllabi and at student showcase nights, open house, in-person or online parent workshops and parent-teacher conferences.
 - Challenging State academic standards and achievement levels of standards by providing links to resources on school web site, tips and helpful websites in the monthly newsletters, teacher-provided information, and offering resources at in-person or online parent workshops, student showcase nights and parent-teacher conferences.
 - State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments and a description and explanation of the assessments used to measure student progress by links on the school web site, resources in the monthly newsletters, teacher-provided information, and in-person or online parent workshops.
 - Requirements of Title I, Part A by holding the in-person or online annual Title I Meetings each school year and providing the Title I Information Sheet in each child's agenda.
 - How to monitor their child's progress through providing assistance in using Infinite Campus, parent-teacher conferences, in-person or online workshops, sending home progress reports and report cards, offering student showcase nights, and online resources.
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child by offering parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year and by parent request, contacting the parents regularly, and offering in-person or online parent workshops.
 - Strategies parents can use to support their child's academic progress by providing in-person or online parent workshops about various academic tips and strategies, offering a monthly school newsletter for strategies and tips, and posting information online on the school's website, YouTube channel, or Facebook page.
 - Partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievement by participating in parent-teacher conferences and in-person or online parent workshops, as well as providing a monthly newsletter.
- Provide parents individual student academic assessment results and interpretation of those results by sending home reports on student academic achievement regarding Milestones Assessments in those courses and hosting in-person or online workshops about the Georgia Milestones Assessment, and online resources for the Georgia Milestones Assessment (GMA).

