

Annual Evaluation of the Content and Effectiveness of the LEA Parent Involvement Plan

(Required for LEAs with Title I Schools)

School System: Scottsboro City

Date Completed: Sept. 3, 2020

What the law requires:

The LEA must (1) conduct **with parents** an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent involvement plan in improving the academic quality of Title I schools, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in authorized activities; and (2) use the findings to design more effective strategies and revise the plan.

Evaluating your plan should be done with LEA and school staff as well as parents. All Title I parents should be aware that the plan is being evaluated and understand the procedure that is in place allowing them the opportunity for input. Input may be from serving as a member of the committee conducting the evaluation; completing a parent involvement survey; participating in parent focus groups; etc. The input, including the results of the parent involvement survey, should be used to assist in addressing the following evaluation components. **The completed evaluation should be posted to the LEA's e-GAP Document Library each year when the Consolidated Application is submitted to the SDE.**

What were our student achievement goals this year?

- The student achievement goals for Scottsboro City Schools were to make proficiency gains in the areas of reading and math.
- EL and Cultural goals were also included.

How did we work as partners with parents in meeting those goals?

- Title I School-Parent Compacts were revised to accommodate the new ESSA requirements and school grades level consolidation. Parents were educated on the new format for each school to include signed by all parents at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.
- A variety of parent involvement activities were held by all Title I schools throughout the year at various times of the day to allow for a greater number of parents to attend.
- A district & school parental advisory board was established to provide ways for parents and community stakeholders to participate in the development of the goals of the schools and to have input on ways to spend supplemental funds to help meet goals.
- Surveys were given to allow stakeholders an opportunity to provide feedback and input concerning each schools' needs, as well as to evaluate overall process in meeting goals.
- Continue to communicate and meet parents and students regarding progress.
- Fall & Spring Federal program meetings are held at the District level to offer parental and community insight into programs and services that occur within Scottsboro City Schools Kindergarten through 12th grade.

How can we improve with actively involving parents in the activities of our schools?

- Web Conferences vs. physical gatherings at the schools would allow for more parents to participate in school meetings/announcements.
- Continue with emails is the best way to reach parents.
- Continue to work with various PTO members at each school to really promote the various fundraisers and events we have at the schools. Make it personal. Sometimes parents do not feel they are needed when in truth they are invaluable. Reach out to parents and make the effort to work around schedules and make them feel apart.
- Offer parents learning opportunities about their children's activities as well as course requirements, skills required, homework expectations and guidelines.
- Most communication with SCS principals is related to fundraisers for the school. While fundraising is essential to our school system, parents and students desire more meaningful interaction with principals. Interaction that is focused on the education of our children, progress of their school and upcoming activities.
- Have more activities in the evening and weekends.

- Schedule family oriented activities after work hours. Give them more opportunities to be involved like with family game and trivia nights, bake sale where parents can bake with their child, family competitions, spelling bee, math team, talent show, fun runs that the whole family can participate in.
- Communication & Different Timeframes
- By encouraging and inviting parents to be a part of their child's education. Become more thorough with methods in which we communicate with parents and how they can be involved.
- Bring stronger awareness and keep current, relevant information on each school's web pages relative to ongoing activities at each school.
- Continuing to use a variety of social media sources to share information and keep parents informed (Remind, Schoolcast, email, Chalkable, etc.)
- Allow for Parent-Teacher conferences, students assessment information and student progress monitoring to be communicated with the parents and educational understanding.
- Successful parent events are more likely to occur when the activity is centered on a child's performance, activity, art work and etc.
- Continue to reach out to parents with letters on social media.

Do we have any barriers to parent involvement that need to be addressed?

- Engagement
- Promote the importance of social media communication.
- Parent survey is the best option for determining barriers. Parents are busy with jobs and family that lack of time is huge; Parent education on current issues, rules, and concerns, online courses & information.
- Child care & providing food at activities
- Schedule time-various and different times-weekends; evenings; maybe video type announcements.
- Many parents' work schedules do not allow them to attend. Scottsboro City Schools will work to partner with business and industry to provide meetings at work sites to allow parents to attend informative meetings during their breaks and/or lunch.
- Better Communication with parents.
- Stronger awareness and understanding of socioeconomic and educational barriers that are very difficult to overcome. Working parents, especially single parents it is difficult to be active depending on their schedules. It's not an option for some parents to miss work.
- Become more creative with communicating parent information.
- Better assist parents and students with grade level and school transitions. What to expect from year to year or what to expect from semester to semester.
- Language barriers continue to be a challenge for some families. Also, continue offering activities during the day & night might help parental involvement.
- Parent understanding of academic standards K-12.

How are we ensuring the distribution of our LEA and school parent involvement plans to all Title I parents?

2020-2021 K-12 parents, students and faculty are informed about the services of Title I and Parent & Family Engagement during SCS LEA Consolidated Plan annual review, Title I meetings, faculty meetings, K-12 Parent & Family Engagement Monthly activities. The LEA works hard to ensure proper communicate is given and made through, social media, schoolcast and district and school websites.

Plans are located on the district website and on each Title I School's webpage. Hard copies of the plan are available for review at each school site, along with copies of the Continuous Improvement Plans and are available at www.scottsboroschools.net.

How can we improve on training that is offered to parents: To help them work with their child at home? To help them to be active partners in LEA and school decision-making?

- Offer web-based training. Not everyone can meet at set times but, they may be able to review an announcement online at a later time or attend via a web/live conference for a short period vs.

having to commit driving time and sitting in a gym/auditorium for the meeting/training.

- Tutoring/training for parents
- Parent representative for each grade to help facilitate information among other parents.
- Provide on-line education courses pertaining to teen issues, discipline, goals, life skills, decision making and self-care.
- Parents receiving information about grade level changes in academics and rigor. Parents would have the ability to prepare their children for the upcoming school year.
- Establish relationships with parents of their children. If the parents and leaders have a relationship, parents will be actively involved naturally.
- Provide parents with different study methods for each subject. Give ideas on how to set a good homework and study routine. Resources as to what foods are good brain (academic) foods? Have successful students share methods for studying and help with homework to parents.
- Communication; Different time; different means of communication.
- Provide learning opportunities for parents that allow them to participate in “mock” simulated activities designed to outline best instructional practices that are practiced each day in class.
- Activities designed to educate parents about the skills embedded into rigorous standards for each grade level.
- Build a parent relationship. Create an environment of partnership with our parents, teachers, and administration that’s understanding of required practices, law and educational standards.
- Be more open to welcoming parent’s suggestions, ideas and thoughts. Be willing to offer team building parent trainings that bridge the gap of misunderstanding.
- Continue updating parent information for call list.
- Perhaps there could be virtual workshops offering various activities to aid parents when working with their children-even soft skills.
- With on-line learning a new reality, parents needs assistance with keeping students on task.

How can we improve on training that we offer school staff/teachers to help them to work more effectively with parents?

- I think they are doing a great job.
- Encourage communication between the teachers and parent that goes beyond the color behavior chart in the school planner. Some parents have no clue what is going on in their child’s class while other teachers are so amazing at keeping parents informed of everything. The process needs to be equal across the board. All parents should feel secure in the knowledge that they have a grasp on their child’s school day and progress beyond a color.
- Provide trainings to improve teacher/parent communication, invite parents to feel free to join discussions groups at school, apps to provide child’s progress, maintain open line of communication.
- Both teachers and leaders within the school system would benefit from training on working with disparate populations. It appears that SCS does not recognize that the majority of its students currently live in poverty. Minorities and families that live in poverty have much different needs from the “haves” in our school system. Our school system as a whole from both a parent and professional standpoint, focuses more on the “haves” rather than the “have nots”.
- Extension service has excellent I parent training
- Have all teachers participate in REMIND
- For lack of better term-Customer service-same message across board
- Maintain accurate grades that are posted in a timely manner.
- Communicate regularly with parents to inform them of their child’s progress.
- Samples of resources (through web sites, etc.) that demonstrate best instructional practices for parents to view.
- Organize more face to face meetings like parent-teacher conferences, dyslexia trainings and etc.
- Training on understanding the culture of lower socioeconomic families as well as the different type of families that evolve in today’s society. (i.e. children living in alternative situations instead of with bio parents) and how it affects the children and parents. Utilize technology more (i.e. Face time or Facebook “Live or messenger for conference, etc.) Be more accommodating when interacting with the parents and students.

- Possibly workshops to support team building.
- Soft skills training

Based on these evaluation findings, what changes do we want to make to our parent involvement plan for next year?

- Unfamiliar with any parent training. Not sure there would be much participation.
- Emphasize all the ways to communicate and reach out to parents and to make sure to explain how important it is to have the apps, etc to access important dates and events happening at school. Remind and inform throughout the year and not just at the beginning of the school year.
- In my professional role, I have the privilege of meeting with the SCS Social Worker. I believe this position is much needed and is a huge improvement for our school system. Far too many of our students have experienced trauma, have parents who suffer from substance use disorders, and live in horrible conditions. I would like to see the social worker position expanded to a full-time position. I believe that SCS would benefit from the hiring of additional social workers in the future. Social workers are a great start to building relationships within our system. As you would expect, as social workers assist families they build strong, long-lasting relationships with these families and students.
- More varied ways of communication and levels of communication.
- SCS has a huge opportunity to support the families of their high school students. Additional counselors for grades 9-12 would help engage families as students prepare for college admissions, scholarships, and career path planning.
- SCS had made some positive changes in the last few years-changes in principal leadership and transitions from school to school. I hope to see SCS continue to improve in all areas. More importantly, I hope to see SCS provide a positive experience for families and children, especially those families that don't experience positive interactions elsewhere.
- More communication with school.
- Provide a point and click way for them to read since most have cell phones; social media and etc.
- Develop parent involvement teams at each school site that includes more faculty members and all stakeholder representatives.
- Create a monthly action plan that outlines ways to include parents at a greater level than this year.
- Encourage more parents to participate by offering a variety of opportunities for parents to become involved.
- Be more creative and encourage various avenues of communication between administration, parents and students.
- Schedule face-to-face parent meetings/conferences with parents. Communicate students' progress, interventions services available and educational path needed to instill student growth.
- Be more realistic to our socioeconomic and educational landscape along with communicating and connecting with parents and students.
- Involve student feedback about parent & family engagement.
- Offer short surveys with parents & students to stay abreast of needs and interest.
- Offer Zoom meetings as an option for meetings.