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**School Parental Involvement Policy**

***Columbia Elementary School***

**2017 – 2018**

**www.columbiaes.dekalb.k12.ga.us**

**Revision Date August 30, 2017**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, ***Columbia Elementary*** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy that contains information required by section 1118(b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The policy establishes the school’s expectations for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and it is incorporated into the school’s plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

***Columbia Elementary School*** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1118:

* 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 parental involvement policy and the joint development of the school wide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).
* Update the school parent involvement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parental involvement 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 ESEA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
* If the school wide program plan under Section 1114(b)(2) of the ESEA 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 parental involvement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement 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

(D) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA

**DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT GOALS:

Goal Area I: Student Success with Equity and Access

Improve student’s mastery of learning standards

* The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Literature End of Grade (EOG) Assessment.
* The DeKalb County School District will increase the percentage of students scoring at the Developing Learner level or above on the Georgia Milestones Math End of Grade (EOG) Assessment.

*Columbia ES* GOALS:

* Improve student mastery of academically rigorous learning standards in ELA with a focus on achievement of all students as measured by:
* (1) Increasing by 5% the percentage of students scoring at the developing learner level or higher on the Georgia Milestones in ELA.
* (2) Meeting or exceeding the mean expected projected growth projection for Reading RIT scores on MAP assessment in grades K-5.
* (3) 70% of all grade levels K-5 to score 70% or higher on bi-weekly common assessments.

**JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

***Columbia Elementary*** 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.

Parents are encouraged to attend Stakeholder Input sessions to review the Parent Involvement Policy, Parent-Student-Compact, and 1% set aside and make suggestions based on student needs and school improvement goals. Parents are also encouraged to participate in the school’s parent surveys and Principal’s Chat to provide input throughout the year.

**ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

***Columbia Elementary*** 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 parental involvement policy, the school wide plan, and the school-parent compact.

***Columbia Elementary*** will hold the Annual title I meeting September 7, 2017. The meeting will be held at flexible times to accommodate all stakeholders.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

***Columbia Elementary*** 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 parental involvement.
* 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:

We provide timely notices of Title I meetings, activities, and academic progress through the school website, Infinite Campus, and School Connects (Calling Post). This allows parents time to adjust their schedules for meetings and to be aware of their child’s performance at school. REMIND, FACEBOOK, and the school marquee are provided as an additional means of communication with our stakeholders. Curriculum Night is held at the beginning of each year where administrators and teachers provide parents information about the curriculum, academic assessments used to measure student progress and testing data. Preplanning Stakeholder Input meetings are provided at multiple dates and times to parents and stakeholders to respond to any suggestions or ideas that may relate to the education of their child. This information is then used to develop the school parent policy, school-parent compact, and 1% Set Aside.

We encourage our parents to become full participating stakeholders in the decision-making process. This is accomplished through representation on the school council, School-wide planning committee, parent involvement committee, and membership in the PTA.

**SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

***Columbia Elementary*** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The school-parent-compact will serve as an additional means of communicating how the school and parents will strengthen the partnership between school and home to increase student achievement.

**RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

***Columbia Elementary*** will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent by:

Parents will participate in the creation of the Title I Parental Involvement 1% Set Aside during the Preplanning Parent Input Meetings and Annual Title I meeting.

**COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

***Columbia Elementary*** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other 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:

***Columbia Elementary*** will designate a staff member to collaborate with feeder schools and designated agencies to support students and families.

**BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

***Columbia Elementary*** will build the parents’ capacity for strong parental involvement 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 proficiency levels students are expected to meet.
* Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child’s achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
* Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  + The State’s academic content standards.
  + The State’s student academic achievement standards.
  + The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments.
  + The requirements of Title I, Part A.
  + How to monitor their child’s progress.
  + How to work with educators.

***Columbia Elementary*** will provide increased parental involvement by providing the following:

* Parent input stations (IPad and/or feedback forms) at parent meetings throughout the school year
* Share parent feedback on the school website, REMIND, and school FACEBOOK page from surveys and parent input forms
* Parents can volunteer their time for various school functions, beautification projects, and other specified volunteer opportunities.
* The Parent Liaison will provide workshop offerings throughout the school year to further encourage parents’ ability to support their child’s achievement.

**BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

***Columbia Elementary*** will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and the school by:

***Columbia Elementary*** staff meetings will double as professional development where staff members will discuss strategies and develop ideas to enhance communication, resource sharing, and enhance relationships with community stakeholders to increase student achievement. In addition, the Title I Family Engagement Facilitator will support the school by meeting with the Leadership Team to develop professional learning opportunities based on feedback from parent input to strengthen ties between home, school, and community.

***Columbia Elementary*** will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under Section 1118 as parents may request by:

**DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

* Train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.
* To maximize parental involvement and participation in their child’s education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and parents who are unable to attend conferences at school.
* Establish a school wide Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs.
* Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities.

*Columbia Elementary* takes into consideration the time and resource constraints that our parents face. Parents are encouraged to conference with teachers at any time but because most of them work during school hours we will hold evening conferences during the school year. Parents are also encouraged to communicate with teachers via Infinite Campus (Parent Portal) and REMIND. Parent workshops are held on different days and times throughout the year based on the data we received on the parent surveys. The School will collaborate with community based organizations to share school communications as well as parent engagement workshops based on parent feedback.