

**School-Level  
Parent and Family Engagement Plan/Policy**

**Gracewood Elementary School**

**School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

***Gracewood Elementary School***

***[School Year 2025 -2026]***

***Revision Date 07/31/2025***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Gracewood Elementary School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The **Gracewood Elementary School** agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- 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 parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA 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 parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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:

- (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 1116 of the ESSA

## DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS.

### **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

**Gracewood Elementary School** 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.

- ☐ **Annual Parent Input Meetings** – Invite parents to provide feedback on the engagement policy and suggest improvements.
- ☐ **Parent Surveys** – Distribute surveys to gather input on family needs, school communication, and engagement effectiveness.
- ☐ **School Council/Title I Committee Representation** – Include parent representatives in decision-making bodies.
- ☐ **Focus Groups or Listening Sessions** – Host small group discussions to review current practices and gather ideas for new initiatives.
- ☐ **Policy Review Committee** – Offer opportunities for parents to serve on a committee that reviews and updates the Parent and Family Engagement Policy.
- ☐ **Workshops & Forums** – Engage parents through events where they can help plan or evaluate family programs.
- ☐ **Ongoing Feedback Opportunities** – Provide digital and in-person suggestion boxes or open channels (e.g., email, school app) for continuous input.

### **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

**Gracewood Elementary School** 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 parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

*Our school's Annual Title I Meeting will be held on October 19, 2025. We invite all parents and guardians to attend and learn more about our Title I program, how it supports student achievement, and how families can be involved.*

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

**Gracewood Elementary School** 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 parent and family engagement.

- 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:
  - ☐ The Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be distributed to parents via email, the school website, printed copies sent home with students, and during parent meetings.
  - ☐ The school will communicate with parents through newsletters, phone calls, text messages, social media, the school website, and in-person meetings.
  - ☐ Information about school and parent programs, meetings, and activities will be provided in multiple formats (print, digital, in-person) and, to the extent practicable, in a language and format that is clear and understandable to all parents.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

**Gracewood Elementary School** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

1. ***Invite Stakeholders*** – Notify and invite parents, teachers, and school staff to participate.
2. ***Hold Planning Meetings*** – Conduct meetings to gather input, discuss goals, and review past compacts.
3. ***Collaborate on Content*** – Work together to draft compact language reflecting shared responsibilities for student achievement.
4. ***Review and Revise*** – Share the draft with all stakeholders for feedback and make revisions accordingly.
5. ***Approve the Compact*** – Finalize and approve the compact through consensus.
6. ***Distribute Widely*** – Share the approved compact with all families and school staff.
7. ***Review Annually*** – Revisit and update the compact each year with stakeholder input.

## RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Gracewood Elementary School 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 parent and family engagement is spent by:

1. *Annual Title I Meeting* – Budget overview shared with parents.
2. *Parent Surveys* – Collected annually to gather input on funding priorities.
3. *School Website & Newsletters* – Budget highlights and engagement opportunities shared regularly.
4. *Parent Advisory Council Meetings* – Parents review and discuss use of funds.
5. *Feedback Opportunities* – Comment boxes and digital forms available for ongoing input.

## COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Gracewood Elementary School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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:

- *Partner with local businesses to provide school supplies, clothing, and food assistance.*
- *Collaborate with health agencies to offer on-site medical, dental, and mental health services.*
- *Coordinate with nonprofit organizations to provide after-school care, tutoring, and enrichment programs.*
- *Work with faith-based and civic groups to organize family engagement events and support services.*
- *Establish referral systems with social service agencies for housing, employment, and financial assistance.*
- *Develop internship and career exploration opportunities through local business partnerships.*
- *Host resource fairs in collaboration with community partners to connect families with services.*

## BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Gracewood Elementary School will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement 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 achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - The challenging State's 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
  - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

### ☐ **Workshops:**

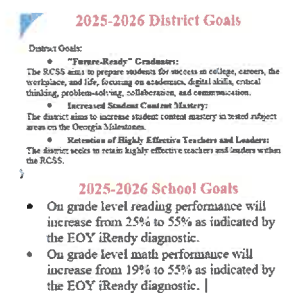
- *Literacy & Math Strategies*
- *Homework Help Techniques*
- *Time Management & Study Skills*

### ☐ **Conferences:**

- *Parent-Teacher Conferences*
- *Curriculum Nights*
- *Annual Title I Meeting*

### ☐ **Online Resources:**

- *School Website & Parent Portal*
- *Educational Videos & Tutorials*
- *Resource Links for At-Home Practice*
- *Progress Monitoring*
- *Chromebooks/Tablets*
- *Take-Home Activity Packs*



**2025-2026 District Goals**

**District Goals:**

- **"Future-Ready" Graduates:**  
The RCSS aims to prepare students for success in college, careers, the workplace, and life, focusing on academics, digital skills, critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration, and communication.
- **Increased Student Content Mastery:**  
The district aims to increase student content mastery in tested subject areas on the Georgia Milestones.
- **Retention of Highly Effective Teachers and Leaders:**  
The district seeks to retain highly effective teachers and leaders within the RCSS.

**2025-2026 School Goals**

- On grade level reading performance will increase from 25% to 55% as indicated by the EOY iReady diagnostic.
- On grade level math performance will increase from 19% to 55% as indicated by the EOY iReady diagnostic.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

**Gracewood Elementary School** will provide 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, 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 the school by:

- ☐ **Workshops:**
  - Effective Communication with Families
  - Cultural Competency and Family Engagement Strategies
- ☐ **Conferences:**
  - Annual Family Engagement Summit
  - Regional Title I Parent Involvement Conference
- ☐ **Trainings:**
  - Building Trusting Relationships with Parents
  - Collaborative Problem-Solving with Families

**Gracewood Elementary School** will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Offer flexible meeting times and virtual options to accommodate family schedules.</i></li><li>• <i>Provide translation and interpretation services for non-English-speaking families.</i></li></ul> |
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- *Supply child care during events to increase accessibility.*
- *Distribute materials and updates in multiple formats (print, email, website, social media).*
  - *Conduct parent workshops on academic support, technology use, and emotional wellness.*
- *Assign a parent liaison to assist families with questions and engagement opportunities.*
  - *Collect regular feedback from families to improve engagement efforts.*
- *Collaborate with community organizations to extend resources and support to families.*

## DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

### POLICY COMPONENTS

\*\*Involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.

- ☐ Provide necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- ☐ Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- ☐ Train parents to enhance the engagement of other parents.

\*\*To maximize parent and family engagement 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.

- ☐ Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement
- ☐ Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- ☐ Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

☐ ***Family Events & Workshops*** – Host curriculum nights, parenting workshops, and cultural celebrations.

☐ ***Welcoming Environment*** – Create a family-friendly front office and invite families to volunteer or visit.

☐ ***Two-Way Feedback*** – Use surveys, suggestion boxes, and parent advisory councils to gather input.

☐ ***Academic Partnerships*** – Share learning strategies, provide take-home resources, and involve parents in goal-setting.

☐ ***Flexible Meeting Times*** – Offer conferences and events at varied times to accommodate family schedules.

☐ ***Community Resources*** – Connect families with health, counseling, and social services as needed.

☐ ***Celebrate Family Involvement*** – Publicly recognize family contributions and success stories