



Parent and Family Engagement

Guntersville Elementary School

Guntersville City Board of Education

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Introduction

All Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools must complete the following diagnostics: the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic, the Parent and Family Engagement Diagnostic, the Coordination of Resource/Comprehensive Budget Diagnostic, and EITHER the Title I Targeted Assistance Diagnostic OR the Title I Schoolwide Diagnostic. Parent Survey must be done annually, but it can be done electronically or by paper.

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Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved. (Sec. 1116(c)(1))

During the first months in session, Guntersville Elementary holds its annual Title I Open House meeting for all parents. Notification of the meeting is sent home by students in English, Spanish or any other language needed, radio, newspaper announcements, web site postings and emails. This forum is used to tell parents about the School-Wide Title I plan, curriculum, testing, federal guidelines, and the role, rights and responsibilities of all parents in the education of their children. A link to the GES Parent Handbook is also sent home during the first week of school describing every aspect of the school including how parents can become involved and the procedure for disagreeing with policies. Weekly classroom newsletters are distributed that contain information on academics and events for the week. "GES Office News" is sent monthly by the principal and PTO. Each of these include school news, calendar of school activities, and parenting tips relating to school achievement such as homework tips, organizational skills, etc. GES provides a school web site and each grade will provide a classroom web page. Parents may communicate with faculty and staff via e-mail. Progress reports are sent home every fourth week of each grading period. Report cards are issued at the end of each nine week session. During the spring, a meeting is held with the Leadership Team and the Parent Advisory Council to determine how the set aside Title I parent involvement money will be spent for the coming year and to evaluate and review that use of Title I money for the present year. At the spring 2018 meeting, the committee was in consensus that each school would be given set aside money to determine how it would be spent. A local school committee and teachers determined to spend parent involvement money as in the past to purchase materials for educational take home packs to ready children for kindergarten. Paper, materials, ink, and toner needed for family newsletters, workshops, and events will also be purchased.

Describe: 1) How there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; 2) How parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school. (Sec. 1116(c)(2)(3))

Parent meetings are offered in a myriad of formats and times. An interpreter is provided at all meetings to facilitate effective communication. Notices are also sent home in Spanish, French Creole, and any other language determined to be needed. Two times each year or more, each classroom teacher meets in a one-on-one format with individual parents to discuss each student. During this conference the parent/student/teacher compact is reviewed, along with diagnostic information, and tips on how to assist their child at home. These are scheduled around parent desired times. Home visits are conducted when necessary. PTO meetings are held at various times throughout the year. Each grade level presents a musical extravaganza offered in the morning and the evening. Seasonal events such as Fall Festival and are attended family events held after school hours. Parents are notified of these meetings and events through newsletters, web sites, local paper, and morning radio news.

Guntersville Elementary believes in involving parents in all aspects of the Title I program. Parents representatives serve on the Title I planning committee. These parents meet both at the system level and the school level to review plans and priorities for parent involvement as well as other elements of the school. The handbook and PTO information make available opportunities to serve on committees and other ways to be involved. Additionally, surveys are administered to parents during the school year giving them input to school decision making. A parent comment box is housed in the office for parent feedback. Additionally, the administration and teachers have an open door policy regarding questions and concerns.

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Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children. (Sec. 1116(c)(4)(A)(B)(C))

Parents are notified of meetings, curriculum information, assessment results, and achievement expectations in many formats. Through orientation, conferences, parent meetings, PTO e-mail, newsletters, web sites, social media, and local paper is disseminated to parents. Notices of meetings and events are sent home in Spanish and other languages as deemed necessary. An interpreter is provided at events when needed.

Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated). (Sec.1116(d))

Guntersville Elementary School reviews its school-parent compact each spring. All sections for school, parents' and student's responsibilities are discussed and considered. The compact is developed through a coordinated effort by school staff members and parent advisory committee. All parents are given a copy of the compact at the beginning of the school year. The compact will be explained at Orientation and Title I Open House and will be signed by stakeholders signifying a commitment to working in partnership to ensure success. The compacts will be discussed with teachers at faculty meetings. Each teacher will explain the compact to the students. The teacher will keep them in her classroom for use during conferences.

Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan. (Sec. 1116(c)(5))

Parents are notified at the Title I parent meeting, on the website, and in the CIP that they can make comments if they disagree with any aspect or component of the Guntersville City School System Plan or the local school plan which both include Parent Involvement Plans. This disagreement and/or comment may be made through completing parent surveys, or filling out a Comment Form. Surveys will be sent to all parents each year with a sections for narrative responses.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (Describe)

In order to ensure effective parent involvement, foster a partnership among Guntersville Elementary stakeholders, and to improve academic achievement, Guntersville Elementary School shall provide parents with opportunities to understand state academic and achievement standards, state and local assessments, and student progress through parent conferences, annual Title I meeting, and system wide meetings to explain testing, student report cards, progress reports and other topics pertinent to student success.

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Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school 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. (Describe)

Guntersville Elementary will continue to work with teachers and staff through faculty meetings and grade level meetings in understanding the importance of parental involvement. The leadership team works cooperatively with the PTO to involve parents. Volunteers are coordinated with the reading coach to provide reading buddies for at-risk students. The teacher, counselor, and principal work closely with families to encourage involvement all levels. Events are planned at the school during the year such as Fall Festival and Johnny Appleseed Day to provide opportunities for families to come to school for non academic reasons. It is our goal to make the school the center of the community for families. Office personnel are trained on the importance of making families feel welcome and to establish an open door atmosphere for parents. New teachers are provided training and support in managing parent conferences and parent contact throughout the year.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal 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.(Describe)

Guntersville Elementary School coordinates and integrates programs for all families. EL parents are invited to attend additional parent meetings specific to their parenting and educational needs. The meetings are usually held at a local restaurant. An interpreter attends to assist with training needs. Federal funds are utilized to provide readiness materials to rising kindergarten students and parents. The Community Education Coordinator works cooperatively with the administration, staff and PTO to plan family events such as the Fall Festival and offer parent training assistance, after school tutoring, parent newsletters, parent tips for the radio, newspaper, and website. The parent involvement program is planned cooperatively with stakeholders to meet the needs of all families. It provides training and collaboration opportunities, specific to special populations such as parents of special needs students, EL students, migratory families, and others as needed. A parent resource center is located in the lounge area of the front office. Materials to assist parents in the education of their child are available for check out.

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To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (Describe)

Guntersville makes every effort to work with parents to meet their requests and needs. Each year, parent needs/evaluation surveys are administered and analyzed to determine any changes needed. Additionally, parents participate in a principal advisory committee, offering a candid discussion format for parents to voice any concerns and suggestions. Any needed changes are planned during the summer or the next school year. The school wide continuous improvement plan, which includes the parent involvement plan is made available to parents and the local community on the school web site and school office.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)

Guntersville makes every effort to work with parents to meet their requests and needs. Each year, parent needs/evaluation surveys are administered and analyzed to determine any changes needed. Additionally, parents participate in a principal advisory committee, offering a candid discussion format for parents to voice any concerns and suggestions. Any needed changes are planned during the summer for the next school year. The school wide continuous improvement plan, which includes the parent involvement plan is made available to parents and the local community on the school web site and school office.

Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. (See ESSA Sec. 1117(f))

Guntersville Elementary School translates newsletters, field trips, programs and other important information in Spanish and other languages as needed. Translators and the EL teachers are present at all conferences and explain information in a language that parents can understand.