

Garden City Elementary School
Family Engagement Policy for Shared
Student Success
2021-2022 School Year



Garden City Elementary School
Kimberly Dozier, Principal
4037 Kessler Avenue
(912) 395-6820

www.savannah.chatham.k12.ga.us/schools/gce/default.aspx

Plan Revised 4/26/2021

What is Title I?

Garden City Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts 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 all parents/families a written family engagement policy.

Title I Funds

Any Local Educational Agency (School District) with a Title I Allocation exceeding \$500,000 is required by law to set aside 1% of its Title I allocation for family engagement.

Shared Student Achievement by All

What is it?

This policy describes how Garden City Elementary will provide opportunities to improve parent/family engagement to support student learning. Garden City Elementary values the contributions and involvement of parents/families in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This policy describes the different ways that Garden City Elementary will support parent/family engagement and how parents/families can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

Garden City Elementary welcomes parent/family input and comments at any time regarding the policy. All parent/family feedback will be used to revise the policy for next year. The policy is posted on our school website for parents to view and post feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey to ask parents for their suggestions on the policy and the use of funds for family engagement.

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. Garden City Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English and parents with disabilities.

Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the policy is given to all students in their student handbook. The policy will also be posted on the school Web site. Parents/families can also retrieve a copy of the policy in the Parent Resource Center.

Our Goals for Student Achievement

Savannah- Chatham County Public School System

GOAL 1: To Ensure all Students are College and Career Ready.

GOAL 2: To Provide a Supportive Learning Environment that is Conducive to Teaching and Learning.

GOAL 3: To Maximize Family and Community Engagement that Contributes to the Advancement of Student Success.

GOAL 4: To Build Professional Capacity in Order to Achieve a Premier Student-Focused Workforce

Garden City Elementary Goals

Increase reading and math achievement as measured by LEXILE SCORE and MAP.

K-1: Phonic Skills and sight word development

K-5: Vocabulary development and comprehension

The focus for math is:

K-5: Place value and estimation, numbers and operations

Family/Parent-School Compact

As part of this plan, Garden City Elementary and our families will help in developing a Family/Parent-School Compact during the Parent Forum event. This is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers. Parents keep the Family/Parent-School Compact at home and return the dated signature sheet. Compacts will be utilized at parent-teacher conferences during the school year.

Let's Make an Appointment!

Garden City School will assist parents in understanding the Georgia Standards of Excellence Performance Standards, as well as the state and local tests and assessments used to measure student's progress and the achievement levels the students are expected to meet through parent/teacher conferences, monthly newsletters, and family night events. Events scheduled for the 2021-2022 school year are listed below:

Open House – August 2021

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.

Annual Title I Meeting – September 2021

We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program. Each school served under Title I must convene an annual meeting, at a time convenient for parents to inform them of their school's participation in Title I programs. Schools must explain the Title I, Part A requirements and the right of parents to be involved in those programs. This meeting is twice in September.

Eureka Math Night - December 2021

Learn how to make math fun at home, Interpretation of MAP Results (Math Scores)

What is Eureka Math? Eureka Math connects math to the real world in ways that take the fear out of math and build student confidence. This curriculum dramatically reduces gaps in student learning, builds persistence in problem solving, and prepares students to understand advanced mathematics.

Parent-Teacher and Student Conferences – October 2021; January 2022; & March 2022

Scheduled updates on your child's progress

Balanced Literacy/ Bingo for Books and GMAS Night - February 2022

Learn how to make reading fun at home, Interpretation of Lexile Results (Reading Scores) and Standardized Testing strategies

What is Balanced Literacy? Balanced Literacy is an opportunity for teachers and students to use high-interest, engaging books to practice the Georgia English Language Arts Standards of Excellence in reading and writing.

Monthly School and Class Newsletters

Gain knowledge about topics relevant to your child's education.

Parent Forum – March 2022

A forum for parents to participate and provide feedback in a roundtable discussions with the staff regarding the School Wide Plan, Family Engagement Policy, Family Engagement Budget, and the Family/Parent-School Compacts. Invitations will be sent home in the communication folders and posted on the school website.

Annual Parent Survey – March 2022

A survey administered to provide information to use in the school improvement plan.

Family Engagement

Garden City Elementary believes that 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;
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- That 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;
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

Garden City School Council

Garden City Elementary invites all families to join the School Council to share ideas and ways to involve other families to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but families are also invited to submit their ideas or suggestions at any school events and through family surveys and through the website. If you would like to learn more about the School Council, please contact Stacy Hale at 912-395-6920.

Garden City Elementary is Reaching Out!

Garden City Elementary will promote and support parents as an integral cornerstone of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will –

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish, and posted on the school website and included in the monthly school newsletter for all parents.
- ✓ Work with our parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of family engagement.
- ✓ Conduct staff development four times a year on family engagement practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents/families.
- ✓ Partner with community programs to share school information about parent engagement activities that will help prepare parents and their child for school transition to Kindergarten and 6th grade.
- ✓ Share information in English and Spanish on the school website and in the school newsletter for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities, such as phone messages, and flyers.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials for parents at conferences, meetings, and workshops to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ Collaborate with community leaders and business groups to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities.
- ✓ Offer parent classes to help further enhance their various education backgrounds.
- ✓ Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for parental involvement activities.
- ✓ Parents will be notified of events two weeks prior. Meetings will be offered at multiple times.



Garden City Elementary is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Please call or email us if you need additional information about our programs.
(912) 395-6820



Family Engagement Standards

Garden City Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are –

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

Assessments

-The Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS) is a year-long, performance-based assessment aligned to the state mandated content standards. The goal of the assessment program is to provide teachers with information about the level of instructional support needed by individual students entering kindergarten.

-NWEA MAP stands for Measures of Academic Progress. MAP is an online assessment that is aligned to the Common Core standards for grades 1st through 5th.

-GMAS is an acronym for **Georgia Milestone Assessment System**. This is a statewide comprehensive test administered in the state of Georgia beginning from Grade 3 through five. GMAS as it is popularly called measures how well students have internalized skills and knowledge as per the state-adopted curriculum.

Parent/Family Action Team

Garden City Elementary invites all parents to join the Parent/Family Action Team to share ideas and ways to involve other parents to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet three times during the school year, but parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions during all activities and meetings as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the Parent/Family Action Team, please contact the Parent and Community Relations Specialist.



The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System is looking for volunteers to donate their time at our schools. Volunteers provide valued resources and experiences for our students and create connections that strengthen our schools.

See the link below to apply online.

<http://www.sccpss.com/page52.html>

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and school's goal for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Mrs. McCullough will submit to the district Title I office via email any comments of parents who feel the school improvement plan is not satisfactory.

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____

