

Title I Parent Involvement Plan

Georgia School for the Deaf believes that parents are a key member of the school community and values their participation in making decisions that will impact upon their child's education. Title I is a federally-funded program designed to improve achievement at schools with a percentage of students eligible for free and reduced lunch prices. Georgia School for the Deaf qualifies as a targeted assistance program for Title I because 100 percent of our students receive free/reduced lunch. Title I funds are intended to benefit all children who qualify by providing funding for personnel and supplies that will be utilized to serve our students either directly or indirectly. To help improve and increase parental involvement, GSD has developed a Parent Involvement Plan. The Parent Involvement Plan at GSD includes the following components:

I. Annual Parent Meeting

An annual meeting will take place in August (the Sunday before the first day of school) to explain our Title I Program, school curriculum, state and local assessments, and GSD's performance profile showing our school's progress toward meeting the learning goals of Georgia Department of Education. Parents will be notified about this meeting at least three months in advance via an announcement in the Registration Packet mailed home to parents in April of the prior school year, the school website, mailings, the weekly newsletter, Facebook, Twitter and Remind101.

II. School-Parent Compact

A School-Parent Compact will be developed utilizing feedback from GSD student, faculty & staff, GSD families as well as community stakeholders, detailing the responsibility of parents, students, and schools for improving student achievement. The school will hold events that encourage feedback on this document, such as Region Meetings, Community Days and School Council meetings. The school PIC will work with school faculty and staff to develop School-Parent Compacts appropriate for their grade levels. A survey for feedback will be posted on the school website. GSD's School-Parent Compact will be distributed to families on Registration Day, where parents, students and school administrators will sign the agreement. The School-Parent Compact shall be posted throughout the school and posted on the school website.

III. Assessing the Parent Involvement Component

Opportunities will be provided for parents to share their concerns and needs, to be involved, and share in appropriate decision making. Parent notifications are made and received via the GSD

website, U.S. Mail, Facebook, telephone, Twitter, Remind101, weekly newsletters and through our Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC). GSD will survey parents annually to measure the effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Plan. Areas to be evaluated include increasing parent participation and identifying barriers to parent participation such as low income, location and limited English proficiency. The findings of this evaluation will be used to design strategies for school improvement.

IV. Expectations of Parent Involvement

Effective parent involvement is not an occasional event, but rather an ongoing process that may include attending parent conferences and other meetings, supporting homework and study, coaching a child with academics at home, providing a home environment that encourages learning, developing a positive approach to discipline and encouragement, volunteering at school and being involved in decisions that affect one's children. Parents are included as part of the site-based decision making committee at GSD. GSD parents are invited to help make decisions for their children as well as the school. GSD parents are viewed as a crucial component of the decision-making team.

V. Volunteer Opportunities

GSD will provide a list of volunteer opportunities at GSD and share them with parents and the community via the weekly newsletter, the school website, the Family Handbook and the school Facebook page. Procedures for volunteering will be shared with parents and community members, and the list of opportunities will be updated on a regular basis. Community members and outside agencies will be encouraged to volunteer at GSD on Volunteer Weekends, which will be developed and implemented throughout the school year. When available, GSD will provide Housing for our parents that wish to participate in one of our dormitories.

VI. Parent/Community Input

GSD will offer opportunities for parents and community members to provide feedback on the Parent Involvement Plan and other essential school documents, such as the School Improvement Plan, the Schoolwide Plan, the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan, and the Flexible Learning Plan. Parents are informed of opportunities for feedback at the annual Title I Parent Meeting, via the school website, the weekly newsletter, mailings and Facebook. The school will use the following events to provide opportunities for parent and community feedback: Region Meetings, Volunteer Weekends and other campus events. Articles requesting feedback are posted on the "Tiger News" portion of the GSD website.

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VII. Providing Opportunities for Training Parents

Opportunities will be provided for parents to inform them of our programs and to share ideas of how to help the child/children. GSD will provide assistance and services to all parents of Title I students as appropriate. These services include understanding of the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, state and local academic assessments, and how to monitor a child's progress and how to work with teachers to improve student achievement. Resources will be shared continually via the school website, the weekly newsletter and Facebook page. The school will also hold a Family Learning Week during the month of June, which will include an ASL immersion program as well as parent classes. A calendar of opportunities are provided in the Family Handbook that is distributed to all GSD families on Registration Day and posted to our school website. When available, GSD will provide housing in our dorms for our parents that wish to participate in on-campus events.

VIII. Annual Review Meeting

The School Leadership Team will analyze the results of our annual parental surveys to determine our goals, needs, and direction for the 2014-15 school year.

IX. Parents Right to Know

According to Title I of ESEA, all parents of students enrolled at Georgia School for the Deaf have the right to request information about qualifications of your child's teachers and paraprofessionals. This information will be provided to you the first ten calendar days of the school year. Also, parents and guardians of students at Georgia School for the Deaf have the right to be included in the educational process of their child. Parents are also presented the Parents Right To Know at each IEP meeting. These rights are also posted on the GSD website.

X. Coordination with Other Programs

GSD will work with school-business partners to provide information about opportunities for organizations and businesses to work together with parents. GSD will describe appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.