

Outreach Programs Division

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For more information, please visit:
parents.gadoe.org

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Richard Woods, State School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

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the parent engagement program



The goal of the Parent Engagement Program is to increase student achievement by engaging and empowering parents, as well as other stakeholders, to become actively involved in their children's education across all grade levels.

The Parent Engagement Program is provided by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) to assist and assure that Title I, Part A Parental Involvement regulations are met with meaningful and strategic actions to build parent capacity in schools and school districts under the law. Schools and districts are responsible for ensuring effective engagement of parents by developing and sustaining partnerships to build parent capacity to attain students' high academic achievement.

What is Parent Engagement?

The research is clear that when schools and families support each other, students of all backgrounds and various abilities achieve at higher levels. Parent engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success.

Program Implementation

The Parent Engagement Program is focused on working with partners in local school districts and the community to provide parents with the best opportunities and resources to help their children succeed in school.

To achieve this goal, the Parent Engagement Program:

- Develops and delivers communications to parents and families on the factors that influence students' academic success.
- Creates collaborative partnerships with external organizations and agencies that support parent and family engagement initiatives to provide needed services, supports, and resources to school districts and parents
- Provides technical assistance, trainings, materials, and professional development opportunities for parental involvement strategies and compliance as mandated by law to district and school administrators, parent involvement coordinators or liaisons, and other family engagement professionals
- Collaborates and coordinates plans with other GaDOE programs to ensure that parent engagement is a focus of various initiatives across the agency and that school districts are equipped with knowledge of these programs to share with parents and their children

Resources

The Parent Engagement Program offers various tools and resources to strengthen parent engagement at the school and district level. Many of these resources have been designed to empower parents to become actively involved in their children's education across all grade levels.

For Parents

- *A Parent's Guide to Title I, Part A* brochure
- "Get Involved" brochure, poster, and videos
- Georgia Parent Leadership Awards
- State School Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council
- School transition brochures and toolkit
- Parent strategy cards

For Parent Engagement Professionals

- Georgia Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) Network meetings and trainings
- Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative and Awards
- "Make and Take" parent engagement workshops
- K-12 parent engagement/involvement strategies
- Parent engagement program and job assistance resources

For Title I Directors and Administrators

- Building parent and staff capacity technical assistance
- Parent engagement webinars
- Parent involvement coordinator guidance
- Parent resource center information
- Teacher and administrator professional development modules
- Parent involvement compliance guidance based on Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Title I, Part A and the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

To obtain copies of brochures, CDs, or to locate any of the information mentioned, please visit our website or contact the Parent Engagement Program.



Framework

The Georgia State Board of Education adopted Georgia's first Resolution and Statement on Parent Engagement. The resolution, along with the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships, are the guiding foundation for local school officials to develop local school and district plans and policies providing a framework for parent-school-community partnerships.



Parent Involvement Coordinators (PICs) receive monthly emails from the Parent Engagement Program, like the one shown here, with valuable resources and timely notifications.



National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the state's parent engagement model for what parents, schools and communities can do together to support student success. **To learn more about these standards, please visit:** www.pta.org/national_standards.asp.

Georgia's Resolution and Statement on Parent Engagement

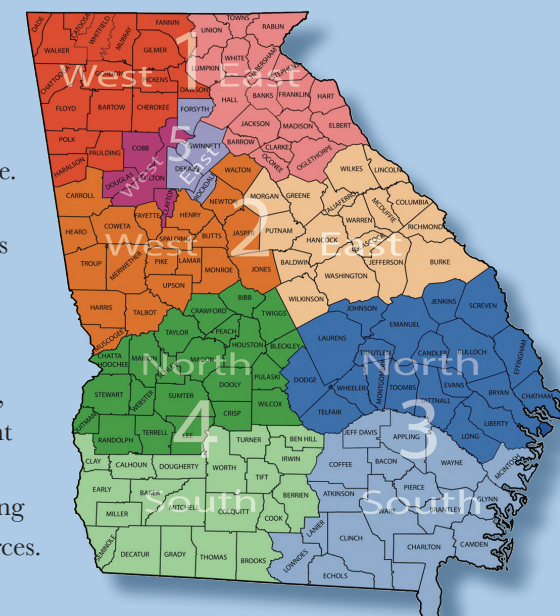
The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that the partnerships between parents, schools, and communities must be viewed as equal with shared responsibilities, but schools must take the lead in developing and sustaining these collaborative partnerships to ensure maximum effectiveness. Each partner, however, has a role to play, as clearly outlined in the resolution and statement, and local school officials are strongly urged to use them as a guide in developing local school and district plans and policies.



Parent Involvement Coordinators

The Georgia Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) Network is a support system and a vehicle to provide ongoing communication and professional development to over 900 PICs throughout the state. As advocates for parents in their schools, PICs offer a variety of educational programs, activities, and resources to assist parents in helping their children achieve their maximum academic potential.

Parent engagement professionals participate in professional development meetings that are held within their region according to the map below. These meetings connect PICs from across the state and provide an opportunity to collectively share ideas, best practices, learn about new parent engagement resources and strategies, and participate in technical assistance for parent involvement compliance. The GaDOE's Parent Engagement Program supports the work of PICs by sending a monthly announcement to the PIC Network, promoting PIC Local Learning Communities, providing webinars on parent engagement requirements and strategies, and developing various materials and resources.



The Parent Engagement Program believes that parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains in student achievement across the board.