



BALDWIN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Building Excellence

**Baldwin County Board of Education Parent and Family Engagement Plan
2023-2024**

Baldwin County Public Schools has 25 schools that have been designated as Title I Schoolwide Program schools for the 2023-2024 school year. The Title I Program is a federal program that provides opportunities for children to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to meet challenging state content standards. Title I funds and resources are distributed to schools where needs are the greatest, in amounts sufficient to make a difference in the improvement of instruction. Title I coordinates services with other educational services and, to the degree possible, with health and social services programs. The plan below describes Baldwin County Public Schools commitment to build capacity and engage families in the education and well-being of their children and equip Title I Schools to succeed in reaching the district and student academic achievement goals.

Components of a Schoolwide Program

- A comprehensive needs assessment of the entire school was conducted using a variety of data.
- Schoolwide reform strategies are established to provide opportunities for all children to meet the state's performance standards.
- Instruction is conducted by properly certified staff.
- Professional development is conducted throughout the school year to support administration and teachers through evidence-based strategies in the areas of academics, social-emotional and parent/family engagement.
- Parent & Family Engagement activities are conducted to increase parent participation.
- Plans are included to provide transitional assistance from pre-school to elementary, from elementary to middle school, and from middle school to high school.
- Support services and additional academic assistance are provided to ensure students master academic standards and/or meet academic requirements on state exams.
- Evaluation of the Title I Program by administering an annual parent/family survey. This survey is conducted in the spring of each year, and the data is used to evaluate the overall effectiveness of the Title I Program, including parent/family engagement.

Parental & Family Engagement

- Parental & Family Engagement is an integral part of the Title I program. A strong connection between home and school is a key element in student success. Parents are encouraged to become partners with their child's school and become actively involved in all aspects of the process of the Title I program, from the writing of the plans to the implementation and evaluation.
- Materials, strategies, and help from teachers are available to all parents of students attending a Title I school. Additionally, opportunities for active parent participation including, but not limited to, open house, parent workshops, school-parent compacts, school-wide improvement committees, parent conferences, monthly newsletters, and more.
- The district and schools provide assistance to parents/families in understanding topics such as the following: state academic standards, state and local assessments, Title I requirements and strategies for monitoring their child's progress (parent portal, progress reports, and report cards).
- Federal Title I Guidance requires schools to utilize a portion of their Title I funds to support parent and family engagement. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's principal with any comments or suggestions regarding the school's Parent/Family Engagement and Community Involvement Plan or how the school can improve.
- The district and schools work to remove barriers that may hinder parent/family participation in district and school activities.
- The district and schools provide options for parent interaction through face-to-face or using technology and through the use of flexible meeting schedules.
- Communication with parents/families is supported through a variety of methods (ex. phone calls, emails, automated phone/text system, school website, and district website).

Parent & Family Engagement Policy and School-Parent Compact

- Each Title I school receives input from parents for the development of a parent and family engagement policy and a school-parent compact.
- The parent and family engagement policy explains how the school plans to work with parents to review and improve parent programs and describes how parents can participate in planning these programs.

- The school-parent compact outlines how parents, school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement, and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards.

Parent's Right to Know

As a parent of a student enrolled in a Title I school, you have the right to know the professional qualifications of the classroom teachers and instructional assistants who instruct your child. Federal law allows you to ask for the following information about your child's classroom teachers and requires the district to give you this information in a timely manner:

- whether the teacher is certified to teach the subjects and/or grade levels the teacher is teaching,
- whether the teacher's certificate is a waiver or substandard certificate,
- the teacher's academic major, graduate degrees, if any, and the teacher's certification area.
- whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you would like to receive this information, please contact your child's school to request this information.

Title I Participation

If you would like to participate in the school advisory committees to assist in developing and reviewing the Parent & Family Engagement Plan and Policy, continuous improvement plan and/or with the School-Parent Compact for your child's school, please contact your child's school. Baldwin County Public Schools Federal Programs Department is continually monitoring the implementation of all Title I plans to ensure compliance with Title I regulations. Additionally, The Federal Programs Department works with parents/family members from every Title I school to create the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan and decide how the district's Parent and Family Engagement funds will be utilized. Furthermore, the Federal Programs Advisory Committee solicits concerns and feedback in the development of the annual Baldwin County Consolidated Plan and district strategic plan. If you have questions regarding this process, you may call the Federal Programs Department at 251-970-7322.

Curriculum, Forms of Academic Assessment, and Expected Student Proficiency Levels

- Baldwin County Public Schools provides a high-quality curriculum based upon the adopted courses of study. All curriculum has been approved by the Alabama Board of Education and adopted by the Baldwin County Board of Education. Textbooks used in the classrooms have been reviewed by a committee of teachers and approved by the Alabama State Department of Education and adopted by the Baldwin County Board of Education. Specific educational programs in each school are targeted to meet the identified needs of the children in the school.
- Baldwin County Public Schools administers a variety of standardized assessments to students. State assessments are given to students in grades two through eight and measures student performance on the state standards. Based upon requirements of *ESSA Guidelines*, all students in grades three through eight are expected to show growth yearly. Second grade students scores are baseline scores to measure the yearly growth from grades three through eight. Students in grades in four, six and eight take the state assessment in science to measure student performance and growth specific to science state standards.
- Children in grades two through twelve take the Star reading and math benchmark tests. Kindergarten and first grades are assessed through Star Early Literacy. The Star test is state-aligned, computerized, and has adaptive assessments that accurately reflect the instructional level of each student and measures growth over time.
- In grades ten through twelve, the ACT standardized suite of assessments are given to students to measure student performance on state standards. Additionally, to monitor student progress throughout the year, students are given teacher-prepared assessments and/or textbook-provided assessments.

Title I Planned Expenditures for 2023-2024

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is the latest reauthorization of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and was approved by the U.S. Congress in December 2015. As a result of the ESSA legislation, provisions include help to ensure students are prepared in reaching state mandates. Examples of activities included in the school's Title I Plan are listed below along with researched-proven strategies that were jointly developed by the principal and members of the school's Title I Advisory Committee. The district/schools offer the following, but not limited to:

- properly certified instructional staff,
- academic and behavior intervention,
- inventory management system,
- standards-based instructional supplies and materials,
- computer-based instruction,
- parent & family engagement activities,
- professional development, and
- translation services.

The full Baldwin County Board of Education Parent and Family Engagement Policy can be viewed on your child's school website and the district website (www.bcbe.org).

Approved by the Baldwin County Board of Education

Date: June 22, 2023