



DESTINATIONS
CAREER ACADEMY
of GEORGIA

POWERED BY STRIDE K12

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR

REVISED MARCH 29, 2024

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FAMILY AND ENGAGEMENT DEFINITION

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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.
- 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, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

What is it?

GADCA's Parent and Family Engagement Plan, referred to as the Plan for Shared Student Achievement, outlines the strategies for enhancing family engagement to support student learning. GADCA highly values the contributions and involvement of parents, Learning Coaches, and family members in establishing an equal partnership to improve student achievement.

This policy describes the various approaches GADCA will employ to support family engagement and highlights how parents can participate in activities and events to promote student learning both at school and outside the virtual classroom. GADCA ensures reasonable support for parental involvement activities as stipulated in Title I Part A Section 1116. The goal is to create a collaborative and supportive environment where families and the school work together to empower students and maximize their academic success.

How is it Revised?

Throughout the school year, we encourage parents to provide input and comments on this policy through various channels such as surveys, email, online meetings, and phone calls. The policy is readily available on our website for families to access and submit feedback at any time. Additionally, Learning Coach meetings held throughout the school year offer another opportunity for parents and family members to share their feedback. The Community Engagement Specialist reviews the feedback received annually to make revision to the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. If you would like to provide direct feedback, please email Emily Wilson, Community Engagement Specialist at ewilson@gadca.org. The feedback provided by parents throughout the current school year will be utilized to refine and enhance the plan for the subsequent academic year.

Where is it Available?

The Community Engagement Specialist will send an email containing the plan to all families at the start of the year. Additionally, the plan can be accessed on our website and the GADCA monthly newsletter sent to families.

TITLE I

What is Title I?

GADCA has been recognized as a Title I school under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I aims to assist state and local educational reforms that align with rigorous state academic standards, with the goal of enhancing teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must utilize proven methods to enhance student achievement and incorporate approaches to foster family involvement. It is mandatory for all Title I schools to jointly develop a written policy on parent and family engagement in partnership with parents and family members.

Purpose

The purpose of Title I under the ESSA is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments. While the ESSA has many requirements, there is a strong focus throughout the law on parent and family engagement notification and involvement, particularly as it relates to:

- Ensuring that high-quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging State academic standards so that students, teachers, parents, and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement.
- Affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

Reservation of Funds

GADCA prioritizes meaningful family and parent engagement. We allocate 1% of our Title I funds specifically for this purpose, involving parents in decision-making. At least 90% of the reserved one percent goes directly to benefit our Title I school. To gather input, we host a Town Hall Meeting during our monthly Learning Coach University meetings. This Town Hall provides a budget breakdown for family engagement activities, allowing parents to share their input on fund usage. A pre-meeting form ensures we address their questions effectively, fostering a productive and inclusive session.

Promoting Inclusive Parent & Family Engagement

To fulfill the parent and family engagement obligations outlined in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Community Engagement Specialist will work closely with the School Counselor and CRE Coordinator. This collaboration aims to guarantee that parents with limited English proficiency, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities have access to information and school reports presented in a language that they can comprehend. Effective communication and inclusive practices are essential in ensuring the involvement of all parents.

Strengthening Our School

The Community Engagement Specialist and the School Counselor offer school-wide professional development to enhance our staff's approach to engaging with families. The sessions will cover a range of topics including the importance and benefits of parental contributions, strategies for effective communication and collaboration with parents as equal partners, the implementation and coordination of parent programs, providing information in a language accessible to parents, and fostering strong connections between parents and the school. We encourage parents to actively participate in these sessions and share their feedback on staff development in family engagement.

School-Parent Compact

Title I compacts are agreements between the school and parents that outline the shared responsibilities for supporting student learning and academic success. This compact is essential for fostering parent and family engagement as they establish clear expectations, communication channels, and collaborative efforts between the school and parents. At the beginning of each school year, GADCA emails the compacts to parents and includes them in our school newsletter to ensure their review and understanding. Copies of the School-Parent Compacts are located on our website: [HERE](#)

Annual Evaluation

Every year, the Parent and Family Engagement Plan for the school will undergo a revision process. As part of this process, a comprehensive survey will be distributed to each parent, assessing all the elements of the plan. The survey will be meticulously crafted and administered by the Community Engagement Specialist, who will also be responsible for elucidating its purpose and significance to parents and family members. Through this annual survey, valuable feedback will be gathered to inform the necessary adjustments and improvements to the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, ensuring its effectiveness in fostering strong partnerships between GADCA and families.

PARENT AND FAMILY INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Parent Advisory Council

GADCA recognizes the immense value of parental involvement in shaping a vibrant educational community. To further enhance parent and family engagement, we are in the process of establishing a Parent Advisory Council. The primary purpose of this council is to create a platform for parents to actively contribute their insights, experiences, and perspectives in shaping our school's policies, programs, and initiatives. By establishing this council, we aim to foster a strong partnership between the school and our parents, ensuring that their voices are heard and their feedback is incorporated into decision-making processes. The Parent Advisory Council will serve as positive ambassadors for GADCA, facilitating meaningful discussions, providing valuable input, and supporting initiatives that enhance student academic success and family engagement. We are excited about this opportunity to collaborate with our parents and strengthen our commitment to student achievement and the well-being of our entire school community. If parents or Learning Coaches are interested in joining the Parent Advisory Council, they should email Emily Wilson at ewilson@gadca.org.

Partnerships for Student Opportunities

GADCA is dedicated to actively engaging in partnerships with various organizations, schools, and colleges throughout the state. These collaborations aim to offer additional training, project-based learning opportunities, and career readiness activities. Our Community Engagement Specialist and CRE Coordinator will join forces to establish and strengthen these partnerships. Together, they will collaborate with agencies to ensure that students and families have the chance to participate in these valuable programs and activities.

FAMILY SUPPORTS AND RESOURCES

School Website

Our website acts as a central hub for parents and families, offering a diverse array of valuable information, tools, and resources. It provides access to academic updates, event calendars, school policies, educational resources, parent guides, and practical tips, all aimed at keeping parents and learning coaches well-formed and involved in their child's educational journey. Access the GADCA website here <https://gadca.k12.com/>

GADCA Calendar

The GADCA school calendar serves as a vital resource for learning coaches, parents, and families by providing essential information and keeping everyone informed about important dates and events. View the GADCA calendar at <https://gadca.k12.com/academic-calendar.html>

Learning Coach Live Help

GADCA is committed to fostering active and effective family involvement in our students' education, as outlined in our Parent and Family Engagement Policy. To support this, we offer 'Learning Coach Live Help' sessions, providing personalized assistance to our Learning Coaches and families. These sessions, available for scheduling at <https://calendly.com/ewilson-630/30min>, cover a range of topics such as platform navigation, curriculum understanding, and student motivation strategies. This initiative is part of our ongoing effort to ensure our families are well-equipped and confident in their crucial role in their student's educational journey.

Learning Coach University (LCU)

Learning Coach University (LCU) offers highly informative monthly sessions with a primary objective to equip Learning Coaches with essential knowledge and resources for supporting middle and/or high school students in a virtual learning setting. These sessions are dynamic and responsive, with topics determined through Learning Coach interest surveys conducted throughout the year. Our specialist delves into in-depth discussions and presentations covering a wide array of carefully selected subjects. These include navigating virtual learning platforms, creating structured learning environments, understanding state academic standards, preparing for state standardized tests, and much more, all tailored to meet the evolving needs and interests of our Learning Coaches.

Online Learning Coach Community

Our Learning Coach Community serves as a valuable resource where learning coaches can connect, ask questions, and stay up to date with the latest happenings at GADCA. This online platform allows learning coaches to engage with one another, share experiences, and exchange ideas, creating a supportive network of individuals who are dedicated to their student's success. Additionally, the Community Engagement Specialist is actively involved in this community, providing guidance, support, and answering any questions or concerns learning coaches may have.

Technical Support

All actively enrolled students will receive laptops, while textbooks and classroom resources will be provided based on individual course load. GADCA leverages its proficient technical support team to offer timely assistance and guidance to school staff, faculty, parents, and students. We make technical support information readily available to all, ensuring that families can overcome any technological challenges they may encounter.