



DESTINATIONS
CAREER ACADEMY
of GEORGIA

POWERED BY STRIDE K12

PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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Destinations Career Academy of Georgia

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What is Family Engagement?

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:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) 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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Destinations Career Academy of Georgia (GADCA) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe GADCA's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of ESSA contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. GADCA will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Jointly Developed

During the annual State of the District meeting in June 2024, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2024-2025 school year. The district sent an email to all parents informing them about this meeting and posted an announcement on the school district website. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), the Comprehensive Support and Improvement School's Plan, and the Targeted Support and Improvement School's Plan. Additionally, each Title I school used its Parent Advisory Council to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by June 2024 was considered for revisions to this policy.

The district's plan to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

Communications

GADCA will communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities, through phone and text messages, emails, social media, school newsletters, and flyers. The district and school will share information in English and other languages to the extent possible through written communications, meetings, conferences, and family engagement events in order for families to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as ways parents can monitor their child's progress.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district Community Engagement Specialist (CES) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the CES to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the CES will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school CES to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a summit in October for principals and CESs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

Reservation of Funds

GADCA will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2024-2025 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, GADCA will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school hosted an annual School Improvement Forum in May for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings were reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact CES in the district office.

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-informed 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/>

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 challenge they may encounter.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

State of the District Meeting ~ May 2025

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from GADCA as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan for the 2024-2025 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website.

School Improvement Forums ~ September 2024

During this week, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide

plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send invitations home as well as email and text parents to notify them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

Annual Title I Meeting~ September 2024

At the beginning of the school year, GADCA, as a Title I school will host a meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, all Title I schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students meet the challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The compacts will be revised annually, distributed to all families, and reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.gadca.k12.com (*Resources<Important Documents*) to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the GADCA website.

Building Capacity

Parent Meeting & Parent University At GADCA, we believe in fostering a strong partnership between parents, families, and our school community. As part of our Parent and Family Engagement Plan, we hold monthly Parent Meetings and Parent University sessions. These gatherings are designed to provide parents with valuable information, resources, and support to help their children succeed academically and personally. Each month, we discuss important topics such as school updates, academic strategies, and ways to support student learning at home. These meetings also offer a platform for parents to voice their concerns, ask questions, and share suggestions, ensuring open and effective communication between families and school staff. Following the Parent Meetings, we conduct Parent University sessions. These are focused workshops led by our educators, covering specific subjects like Math, Reading, Science, and Social Studies. Parents will learn practical techniques and activities to reinforce classroom learning at home, helping their children excel in their studies. Our goal is to empower parents with the knowledge and tools they need to actively participate in their child's education. We encourage all parents to attend these monthly sessions to stay informed, engaged, and connected with our school community.

Of Parents - GADCA will provide families with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. GADCA works with families and to help them understand academic expectations for student learning and progress. Specific information related to GADCA, the State's challenging academic standards, and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments, will also be provided. The district also offers assistance to parents in understanding the use of its online student information system and other digital resources, including the harms of copyright piracy, through its technology specialists. Notifications about these opportunities will be posted on the district website and shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media postings.

In addition, GADCA websites contain resources and materials such as parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and GADCA materials for at-home learning. Hard copies of these materials are also available, including copies in Spanish.

GADCA's Parent Advisory Council, made up of parent representatives, advises the school on all matters related to family engagement. Community leaders and business partners are also invited to serve on the council. The participation of all our partners is encouraged through video conferencing and recording options to accommodate varying schedules.

GADCA will coordinate and integrate the family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, GADCA will host Middle and High School Transition Nights, and a Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Of School Staff - GADCA will conduct four trainings during the school year for staff members to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. The purpose of the training is to coordinate the sustainability and growth of GADCA. GADCA will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, GADCA meetings, and activities are available to all parents. GADCA is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' preferred language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and GADCA meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and social media to post information for parents.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, GADCA will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school

websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

GADCA will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, GADCA's family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with various departments to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
April 2024

School Improvement Forum
September 2024

State of the District
May, 2025

For Schools

Welcoming Schools Training
August & December 2024
March & June 2025

Title I Meeting
August, 2024

Adoption

GADCA's parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District meeting.

This policy was adopted by the GADCA will be in effect for the 2024-2025 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children before or during the first week of fall semester. [Combined Policy Checklist GADCA.docx](#)

