



## Savannah Classical Academy (K-8)

705 East Anderson Street  
Savannah, GA 31401  
(912) 395-4040

www.savannahclassicalacademy.org  
Mr. Barry Lollis, Director



### ***FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2019-2020*** (Revised 04/30/2019)

#### **What is Family Engagement?**

Family engagement means the participation of families in regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including making sure:

- \* That families play a role in assisting their child's learning.
- \* That families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- \* That families 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 outlined in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

#### **What is Title I?**

Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Acts, as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) provides financial assistance to local educational agencies and school with high numbers or high percentages of children from low-income families to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic standards.

### ***The Family-School Partnership to Your Child's Education***

- ✓ ***Communication***
- ✓ ***Collaboration of School, Families, and Community***
- ✓ ***Strengthening Parents and Families***
- ✓ ***Strengthening School Staff***



#### **Communication**

- > **Family friendly format and languages**
- > **Multiple platforms of information**
- > **Various time offerings**
- > **Transportation and Childcare assistance**

All SCA information and documents will be delivered in an easy to understand, **family friendly format**. We have translators on-site to assist Spanish-speaking families and any Title I documentation is available in Spanish formats. SCA will also provide assistance with families who require additional language translations. Throughout the year, we offer copies of the district Family Engagement Policy, SCA Family Engagement Policy, Family-School Compacts, Family Feedback Forms, Family Engagement Budget surveys, and Beacon Program Volunteer information online at [savannahclassicalacademy.org](http://savannahclassicalacademy.org). For families with limited internet access, we also offer copies in the Parent Resource Center (PRC). SCA staff and administration communicate frequently via **multiple platforms** including newsletters, email, text messages, flyers, letters, telephone calls, teacher/parent conferences, and websites. To accommodate family schedules, SCA strives to offer **various meeting and workshop times** throughout the year. We will also post pertinent school and Title I information and events on our school website so that families can access 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Families that need assistance with **transportation and/or childcare** in order to attend any school function are encouraged to contact the school and request those available services.

#### ***Savannah Classical Academy's Mission:***

**To provide every child with a classical and academically rigorous education while instilling a commitment to civic virtue and moral character.**

## Collaboration of School, Families, and Community

- > **Family Engagement Policy**
- > **Family-School Compact**
- > **Annual Title I Meeting**
- > **Title I Family Engagement Funds**
- > **Coordination of Services**
- > **Family – School Action Plan Committee**

This SCA **Family Engagement Policy** is a plan that describes how our school will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. The **Family-School Compact** is an agreement between the family and school to make sure all of our students reach grade-level standards and achieve academic success. Each grade level compact is tailored to state and teaching standards and their components will be referred to during parent conferences, classroom instruction, and other various times throughout the school year. The compact specifies expectations and goals for staff, parents/families, and students. The Family Engagement Policy and all Family-School grade levels Compacts were informed and developed by stakeholders invited to the Family Forum on March 26, 2019, surveys distributed school-wide, announcements and surveys available at savannahclassicalacademy.org and in the PRC, staff meetings held in April 2019, and any family feedback from the 2018-2019 school year. In addition to being sent home in August 2019, the district and school Family Engagement policies and compacts are available in the PRC, online, and at the annual Title I meeting in September 2019. Families, staff, and community members are invited to assist in the development of our Family Engagement Policy and the Family-School Compact through announcements, Annual Evaluation Surveys, Family Forum (morning and evening meetings), and ongoing feedback forms that will be distributed through students, online, and extra copies/forms in the PRC. Utilizing this input, our school's Family Engagement Policy is updated annually. An **Annual Title I Meeting** will take place in September 2019 with two time offerings in order to inform families of Title I requirements, school participation, family rights and resources available. SCA receives designated **Title I Family Engagement Funds** that are allocated specifically for family engagement activities. The school will distribute a One Percent Family Engagement Budget Survey in the fall to all families (paper copy home, extra copies in the PRC, and online) and will also be discussed in the Family Forum meetings. The budget is developed with input from staff and families. SCA Family Engagement Policy will involve a **Coordination of Services** with community organizations, preschool programs, colleges, and universities. SCA will host community partners in parent workshops, school events, and presentations to educate families. We will also conduct a Parent Resource Center Open House for families to learn about community services, resources available to families, and transitioning from grade level to grade level. The school district hosts a Student Success EXPO in January in which early childhood programs and college and career ready resources are exhibited. During the school year, the **Family-School Action Plan Committee** will meet to assess the needs and goals of Savannah Classical Academy, develop an action plan based on the assessment, and evaluate the effectiveness of the action plan. The committee is comprised of parents/family members, staff, and community members. SCA families are welcome to participate and we encourage you to contact the school to become involved with the action plan committee.

## Strengthening Parents and Families

- > **State and Local Assessments**
- > **Improving Student Achievement**
- > **Volunteer Information**
- > **Family Engagement Requests and Grievances**
- > **Parent Resource Center (PRC)**

Savannah Classical Academy and the school district will offer opportunities for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging **state** academic standards, **local academic assessments**, monitoring student progress, and alternative forms of assessments. SCA will work with the families to provide awareness and understanding of curricula (Georgia Ready and Georgia Standards of Excellence) and academic information such as how the Georgia Milestones Assessment System and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) connect to a student's learning and growth. The dates and locations for these opportunities will be advertised on websites and sent home with the students. SCA staff and the school district will send information home and post online the curricula used, assistance with interpreting assessment results, and technology resources (including education about harms of copyright piracy) that families can utilize to help **improve student achievement**. Parents, family members, and community members are welcome and encouraged to volunteer in a variety of capacities. More **volunteer information** and how to sign up is available online through the Operation Beacon Program on the school and district's websites. SCA welcomes suggestions on Title I programming! The school will provide reasonable support for **Family Engagement Requests**; if you would like to see a certain topic addressed, please contact the school. Additionally, any concerns or **grievances** with your satisfaction of our School Improvement Plan or Title I program, please contact the director, Mr. Barry Lollis at (912) 395-4040, and he will elevate that information and feedback to the district's Title I department.



### Parent Resource Center (Room 32)

Hours of Operation: 8am-2:30pm Monday-Friday

- \*Materials available for families to check out
- \*Computer, color laser printer, telephone
- \*Notary Services
- \*Community Resources and take-away information
- \*SCA, SCCPSS, and Title I program information



## Strengthening School Staff

- > Training School Staff
- > Families Input
- > Families as Equal Partners
- > Building Ties Between Home and School

SCA will be **training school staff** (including teachers, support personnel, and administration) throughout the school year to maximize family engagement. With the assistance of **families input**, school staff will learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, understand the value of family contributions, and maintain **families as equal partners** in educational success. **Building ties between home and school** is our ongoing goal. Therefore, staff training will involve creating a welcoming school environment. At the beginning of the school year, SCA will train staff to ensure information communicated is always available to families in an understandable, native language. Interpreters and translated online information will be provided if necessary.



The district's  
Family  
Engagement  
Policy is  
accessible at  
[www.sccpss.com](http://www.sccpss.com)

	<i>Family/School</i>	<i>Family/District</i>
<u>August:</u>	Open House Family-School Compacts (sent home) School Family Engagement Policy (sent home) District Family Engagement Policy (website sent home) Family Engagement Budget Survey (sent home)	<u>August:</u> Back to School Event
<u>September:</u>	Annual Title I Meeting Family Engagement Night Parent University	<u>November:</u> Family Engagement Advisory Council Meeting
<u>January:</u>	International Night Parent University	<u>January:</u> Student Success EXPO
<u>August – May:</u>	Family Workshops Parent-Teacher Conferences Early Report Card Pick Up Nights Information posted on website Events advertised at least two weeks in advance Quarterly staff trainings on Family Engagement	<u>April:</u> Family Engagement Day

**Share Your Thoughts:** We would love to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the student or school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments and leave with the front office or email [Barry.Lollis@sccpss.com](mailto:Barry.Lollis@sccpss.com) Mr. Lollis will submit feedback to the district Title I office.

Name (optional): \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone/email (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: