

Savannah Classical Academy (K-8)

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www.savannahclassicalacademy.org

Mr Barry K . Lollis-Executive Director



Family Engagement Policy 2020-2021 (Revised 4/30/2020)

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 116 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) provide 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.



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 www.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.

Strengthening Parents and Families

Savannah Classical Academy and the school district will offer opportunities for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state and 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 (Georgia Performance Standards) 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 K Lollis at 912-395-4040, and he will evaluate that information and feedback to the district's Title I department.

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 level Compacts were informed and developed by stakeholders invited to the Family Forum on March 26, 2020, surveys distributed schoolwide, announcements and surveys available at savannahclassicalacademy.org and in the PRC, staff meetings held in April 2020, and any family feedback from the 2019-2020 school year. In addition to being sent home in August 2020, the district and school Family engagement policies and compacts are available in the PRC, online, and at the annual Title I meeting in September 2020. 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, 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 2020 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 meeting. 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 Team 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 team committee.



Strengthening School Staff

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 trainings 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.



Parent Resource Center (Room 32)

Hours of Operation: 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

***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



Upcoming Events

August: Open House

Kindergarten Orientation

Family-School Compacts (sent home)

Family Engagement Plan (Sent home)

District Family Engagement Policy (website/sent home)

September: Annual Title I Meeting

Parent University

January: Early Report Night

Parent University

August-May: Family Workshops

Parent Teacher Conferences

International Night

Quarterly staff trainings on Family engagement



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. Mr. Lollis will submit feedback to the district Title I office.