



ABOUT THIS PACKET

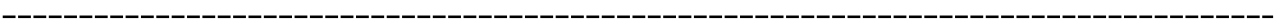
This packet contains important information regarding parent involvement and the goal of improving student achievement at Pickens County Middle School.

Documents include:

1. Letter from Parent and Community Involvement Coordinator, Pickens County Schools
2. Letter from Federal Programs Director, Pickens County Schools
3. School-Parent Compact for Student Achievement*
4. Parent Resources – Pickens County Middle School
5. Parent Involvement Plan – Pickens County Middle School
6. Pickens County Schools Districtwide Parental Involvement Plan

***NOTE: Parent/Guardian signature is required to acknowledge receipt of this information.**

Please read this packet, sign the form below, and return to Pickens County Middle School.



Please sign, cut out, and return to Pickens County Middle School

Please sign and date below to acknowledge that you have received, read, and agree to this School-Parent-Student compact. Once signed, please return the form to your child's teacher and keep the School-Parent-Student Compact as a reminder of your commitment. The School-Parent-Student Compact will be discussed with you throughout the year at different school-family events as we work together to help your child succeed in school. We look forward to our school-family partnership.

School Representative Signature	_____	Date:	_____
Parent/Guardian Signature:	_____	Date:	_____
Student Signature:	_____	Date:	_____

Lula Mae Perry, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Board of Education
Mike Cowart, *Chair*
Delane Lewis, *Vice-Chair*
Peggy Andrews
Daniel Bell
Byron Long

October 26, 2015

Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each of you back for another exciting school year. There are many wonderful changes going on within our system, and this year promises to be one filled with learning experiences that are both amazing and fun.

As many of you know, our elementary and middle schools are Title I Schools. Title I is part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The purpose of Title I is to ensure all children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education. Our school system receives federal money to help make sure this happens. Each school uses this money in different ways that best meets its individual needs. You will have opportunities throughout the year to help determine how this money is used through parent meetings and surveys. Title I also believes parent engagement in a child's education is a very essential piece of the puzzle. Each of our schools has a Parent Involvement Plan that is reviewed and revised yearly. You will find a copy of your school's plan enclosed in this packet along with some other very useful information.

You will also find a School/Parent/Student Compact. The Compact is a voluntary learning agreement between home and school. This agreement defines goals, expectations, and shared responsibilities of the school, parents, and students as equal partners in student learning. Please sign and return the bottom portion, keep the Compact to review throughout the year, and use the Compact during Teacher/Parent conferences. Federal guidelines stipulate we have one for each student.

If you have any questions, comments, or suggested changes regarding the information contained in this packet, please email me at amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org, call me or Sherry Martin, Federal Programs Director, at 706-253-1700, or send the comments back to the school by your student.

I would like to thank you in advance for your time as I know it is in short supply this time of the year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Amberle Godfrey'.

Amberle Godfrey
Parent and Community Involvement Coordinator
Pickens County School System

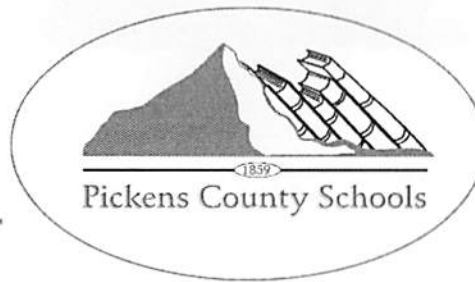


100 D.B. Carroll Street • Jasper, Georgia 30143 • (706) 253-1700 • Fax: (706) 253-1705



www.pickenscountyschools.org

Lula Mae Perry, Ed.D.
Superintendent



Board of Education
Mike Cowart, *Chair*
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Daniel Bell
Byron Long

October 26, 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of how well their school is preparing its students for college and/or a career, as well as the school's designation status under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

Under the 2015 renewal of Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver, certain Title I schools continue to be designated as Reward, Priority, or Focus Schools. The Waiver allows the use of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) as the comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia, providing a score between 0-100 for each school. Moreover, it is intended to measure how well the school is doing in preparing its students to be successful in college and/or a career.

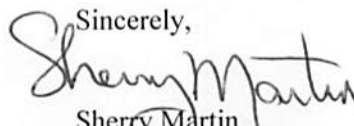
For the 2013-2014 school year, Pickens County Middle School received a score of 86.3 (2014-2015 scores have not been released). You can find more information about CCRPI and your school's score at <http://ccrpi.gadoe.org/2014/>, by calling Pennie Fowler, Principal, Pickens County Middle School at 706-253-1830 or Sherry Martin, Director of Federal Programs at 706-253-1700.

I am very proud to tell you Pickens County Middle has not been given a school designation this year, which means we are a Title I school that is continuing to provide a quality education to all of our students. At Pickens County Middle, we take pride in the quality of teaching we provide for our children. Our teachers and staff members work very hard to meet the needs of all students to ensure they achieve at their highest potential.

An important part of Pickens County Middle's success is parent participation and support in developing activities to improve student achievement. We hope you will become involved in our school improvement work as we continue to monitor student achievement and set high expectations. If you are interested in participating in the development of our school improvement plans, being a part of our PTO, or have questions about how you can better help your child in school, please contact Amberle Godfrey, Parent & Community Involvement Coordinator at 706-253-1700 or amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org.

Thank you for all that you do to support your child's education.

Sincerely,


Sherry Martin
Federal Programs Director
Pickens County Schools



100 D.B. Carroll Street • Jasper, Georgia 30143 • (706) 253-1700 • Fax: (706) 253-1705



www.pickenscountyschools.org



WHAT IS A SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT?

A School-Parent Compact for Achievement is an agreement that parents, students, and teachers develop collaboratively. It explains how parents and teachers will work together to ensure all students reach grade-level standards. Effective Compacts

- ✓ Link to goals of the School Improvement Plan
- ✓ Focus on student learning skills
- ✓ Share strategies parents can use at home
- ✓ Explain how teachers and parents will communicate about student progress



HOW PARTNERSHIPS ARE BUILT

At Pickens County Middle School we believe when our school and families work together, our students benefit. We do this by offering numerous opportunities for families to participate in workshops, activities, and family nights. Please check your Pickens County Middle School calendar for dates and times. Reminders will also be sent home with students.



JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The parents, students, and staff of Pickens County Middle School developed this School-Parent Compact for Student Achievement. Teachers suggested strategies parents could use at home, parents added ideas to make learning more practical, and students expressed how they learn best. Meetings are held each year to review the compact and make changes based on students' needs.

Parents are welcome to contribute comments at any time.

Amberle Godfrey, Parent & Community Involvement Coordinator

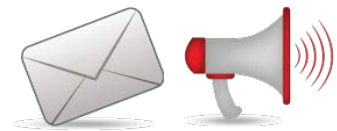
amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org / 706-253-1700




COMMUNICATION ABOUT STUDENT LEARNING

Pickens County Middle School is committed to two-way communication with families about their students' learning and progress. Some of the ways you can expect to hear from us are:

- Routine newsletters
- Event information on school website and social media
- Teacher web pages that include lesson plans
- Remind 101
- Phone calls, email blasts, and notes home
- Attendance and academic information via Infinite Campus
- Progress reports and report cards



Do you have questions about your child's progress? Contact your child's teacher by phone 706-253-1830 or by email. E-mail addresses are on the school website @ <http://pickensmid.pickens.k12.ga.us>.

PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS  GRADUATION AND LIFE PREPARATION FOR ALL!		
2015-16 District Goals	2015-16 PCMS Goals	Our Commitment to Parent Involvement
The Board of Education sets goals for the entire district. The district goal for 2015-2016 is to raise student achievement as reflected in a 3% increase in CCRPI scores excluding Challenge Points. The school shall annually increase by 3% of the gap between the baseline year's CCRPI score and 100.	Pickens County Middle School's Improvement Team, teachers, and administrators have studied the data to decide the most important areas of improvement for our school. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve achievement in all content areas by increasing Lexile scores by 50 points. ✓ Increase science and social studies proficiency by 5% over three years. 	Pickens County Middle School is committed to parent involvement and will do the following to help ensure the academic achievement of our students: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome all families 2. Communicate effectively 3. Support students' success 4. Advocate for each child 5. Partner with parents 6. Collaborate with our community

PARENTS – STUDENTS – TEACHERS WORKING TOGETHER FOR SUCCESS

In the Classroom

The staff at Pickens County Middle School will work with students and their families to support students' success on state assessments, especially in reading, science, and social studies. Some of our key connections with families will be:

- ✓ We will provide awareness of Study Island, Moby Max, and Kahoot links on the PCMS website and send home paper study guides for students without Internet access
- ✓ Teacher websites will include lesson plans, helpful links, and access to communication with teachers
- ✓ School Newsletters will include tips on how to review and evaluate results from Study Island in science and social studies

At Home

Pickens County Middle School parents joined staff members to develop ideas about how families can support students' success on state assessments especially in reading, science, and social studies. Families may have other ideas to add to the list below:

- ✓ Allow student(s) to do safe science experiments and cooking activities
- ✓ Encourage the use of educational opportunities (documentaries, outings, pleasure reading) to promote learning
- ✓ Check teacher and school webpages regularly, and if Internet access is not available, ask for worksheets to be sent home
- ✓ Read newsletters on how to review and evaluate results from Study Island

Pickens County Middle Students

Pickens County Middle School students joined staff and parents to develop ideas about how students can succeed in school and reach for the stars on the state assessments, especially in reading, science, and social studies. Students suggested the following ideas to strengthen connections between learning at home and school:

- ✓ Find and read books on topics discussed in class
- ✓ Go on educational trips or camping
- ✓ Watch educational shows on topics discussed in class
- ✓ Participate in science experiments and cooking activities with parents
- ✓ Create a PowerPoint with parents focusing on social studies, science, and technology



Elementary and Secondary Education Act (Parents Right to Know)

In compliance with the requirements of the national Elementary and Secondary Act (Title IIA), the Pickens County Board of Education reminds parents that they may request information about the professional qualifications of their child's teacher(s) and paraprofessional(s) -

- Whether the teacher met the state requirements from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission for certification for the grade level and subject area which they teach;
- Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other temporary status through which Georgia qualifications or certification criteria have been waived;
- What undergraduate or graduate degree(s) the teacher holds, including graduate certificates and additional degrees, and major(s) or area(s) of concentration; and
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.

Parents may request such information by contacting the administrator at the school or Lisa Galloway, Personnel Director, 100 D. B. Carroll Street, Jasper, GA 30143, lisagalloway@pickenscountyschools.org, 706-253-1700.

Flexible Learning Program

Beginning with the 2012-2013 school year, the Georgia Department of Education received a waiver from the Federal Department of Education to transition the method of accountability from Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) to the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). Pickens County Schools have met all standards of performance under the new state accountability system and have no schools that fall under the Priority, Focus, or Alert designations. For more information on the new state accountability method, please see the letter enclosed in this packet or call Sherry Martin, Federal Programs Director, Pickens County Schools, 100 D B Carroll Street, Jasper, GA 30143, sherrymartin@pickenscountyschools.org, 706-253-1700.

Federal Programs Complaint Procedure

Any individual, organization or agency (Complainant) may file a complaint with the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) if that individual, organization or agency believes and alleges that a local educational agency (LEA), the State Educational Agency (SEA), or an agency or consortium of agencies is violating a Federal statute or regulation that applies to a program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). The complaint must allege a violation that occurred not more than one (1) year prior to the date that the complaint is received, unless a longer period is reasonable because the violation is considered systemic or ongoing. For more information please visit www.pickenscountyschools.org or contact Sherry Martin, Federal Programs Director, 100 D.B. Carroll Street, Jasper, GA 30143, sherrymartin@pickenscountyschools.org, 706-253-1700.

Parent Resource Center

Pickens County Middle School has two parent resource centers open from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm. The centers include a data board and a school information kiosk system located in the front lobby and in the main office areas. These parent resource centers contain parenting skills books and pamphlets parents may check out or take home for use. The student/parent data board and kiosk provide school information regarding academics, discipline, attendance data, and upcoming school events.

Infinite Campus

Pickens County Schools use Infinite Campus to enable parents to view their students' grades and attendance. Grades are updated regularly and attendance is updated immediately. This is an important tool to help parents stay updated with their child's progress. If you need further assistance please call Becky Prescott, Data Clerk Specialist, Pickens County Middle School at 706-253-1830.

Title I

Money is provided by the federal government to support student academic achievement. Eligibility for these funds is based on the number of students who receive free or reduced lunch. Pickens County Middle School is currently a school-wide Title I School and must specify how Title I funds are to be spent. Funds from this program are used for the school academic coach, various technologies, and software used to supplement instruction. Parents also have the right to voice their opinions on how the required 1% set aside of Title I funds are spent to encourage and improve Parent Involvement. For more information, contact Pennie Fowler, Principal, at 706-253-1830, or Amberle Godfrey, Parent and Community Involvement Coordinator, at amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org, or Sherry Martin, Federal Programs Director, sherrymartin@pickenscountyschools.org, 100 D. B. Carroll Street, Jasper, GA 30143, 706-253-1700.

Helpful Websites

Please visit the following websites that you may find helpful in understanding some of the requirements set forth by the Federal and State Departments of Education as well as some information that may help you partner with your school in the education of your student. After each website address is a short description taken from the home page of the site to help you understand the information you will find on these pages. If you have any further questions, please contact Amberle Godfrey, Parent and Community Involvement Coordinator, at 706-253-1700 or amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org.

- www.georgiastandards.org – From this public website, parents have quick access to background information about the Georgia Standards, why they were created, and how they are being implemented. Additionally, parents may browse the standards and suggested frameworks that may be utilized in the individual curriculum areas. Also available to parents is access to information on testing resources and study guides, Lexile framework, gifted education, parent involvement, and much more are under the “Parent Tab” located at the top of the page.
- <http://gosa.georgia.gov> – The Governor’s Office of Student Achievement - Welcome to the website of The Office of Student Achievement. This agency provides meaningful education information to stakeholders across Georgia. It focuses on all levels of education, from pre-kindergarten centers to higher education institutions. Parents, educators, business leaders, and community activists alike are able to use this information to help support and improve education statewide to build a more educated Georgia.
- www.ed.gov – U.S. Department of Education – ED was created in 1980 by combining offices from several federal agencies. ED’s mission is to promote student achievement and preparation for global competitiveness by fostering educational excellence and ensuring equal access. On this website you will be able to find information on programs and initiatives at the federal level.
- <http://tinyurl.com/Libraryassociation> - The Association for Library Service to Children (ALSC) is the world’s largest organization dedicated to the support and enhancement of library service to children. From creative programming and best practices to continuing education and professional connections, ALSC members are innovators in the field of children’s library service.
- <http://tinyurl.com/edpublications> - The U.S. Department of Education has developed a number of publications featuring the latest research and most effective practices in subjects such as reading, homework, and staying drug free. This catalog provides brief descriptions of each volume, as well as information on how to obtain these publications in hard copy or online. Each is provided at no cost. This catalog will be updated as new publications become available. In the meantime, readers are invited to check out the various titles listed.
- www.gadoe.org – The Georgia Department of Education – On this website you will find some very helpful information. You can read about the New ESEA Flexibility Waiver, the College and Career Readiness Performance Index, and the Georgia Standards. Parents can subscribe to The Department of Education E-Newsletter, look at school reports, and obtain other information on this website as well.
- www.pickenscountyschools.org – Our Pickens County School System website has links to all individual schools, important information and dates, student resources, community resources, our school and district calendars, survey results, and much, much more. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with our Pickens County School System website.



WHAT IS THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT PLAN?

What is it? This is a plan that describes how Pickens County Middle School will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Pickens County Middle values the contributions and involvement of parents in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement and of creating opportunities for parents to participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.



How is it developed/revised? Pickens County Middle School welcomes parent input and comments at any time regarding this plan, and the Title I Schoolwide Plan. Parent input forms will be available to all parents of students enrolled in Pickens County Middle to involve parents in the development of this plan, the district plan, the Schoolwide Plan, and the use of parent involvement funds. All parent feedback will be considered in the revision of all plans. The plans will go home with all students at the beginning of the school year. This Parent Involvement Plan (PIP) is posted on our school website for parents to view and send feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey asking parents for their review of our Title I Program, as well as all plans. This survey helps to guide how our parent involvement funds are spent. Parents can also give feedback during our annual Pickens County Parent Action Committee meetings.

Who is it for? All students participating in the Title I, Part A Program and their families are both encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this PIP. Pickens County Middle will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English skills, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available? At the beginning of the year, the PIP will be sent home with students in their Title I packets, posted on the school website, available at all schools, available at Title I Meetings, annual Title I events, and at the Pickens County Parent Action Committee meetings.

What is Title I?
Pickens County Middle School is identified as a Title I school as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging State academic standards in order to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I Programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parental involvement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written parental involvement plan.

PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS		
JUST FOR KIDS		
GRADUATION AND LIFE PREPARATION FOR ALL!		
2015-16 District Goals	2015-16 PCMS Goals	Our Commitment to Parent Involvement
The Board of Education sets goals for the entire district. The district goal for 2015-2016 is to raise student achievement as reflected in a 3% increase in CCRPI scores excluding Challenge Points. The school shall annually increase by 3% of the gap between the baseline year's CCRPI score and 100.	Pickens County Middle School's Improvement Team, teachers, and administrators have studied the data to decide the most important areas of improvement for our school. These areas are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Improve achievement in all content areas by increasing Lexile scores by 50 points ✓ Increase science and social studies proficiency by 5% over three years 	Pickens County Middle School is committed to parent involvement and will do the following to help ensure the academic achievement of our students: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Welcome all families 2. Communicate effectively 3. Support students' success 4. Advocate for each child 5. Partner with parents 6. Collaborate with our community

LET'S GET TOGETHER!

Pickens County Middle School will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parental involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Notices and invitations will be sent home with students, published in the *Pickens County Progress*, posted on Facebook, and transmitted via an all-call phone notice to inform families of these parent engagement opportunities.



- School Advisory Council: This committee of parents and teachers meets quarterly to review the school improvement plan and student achievement data.
- Open House: Parents and students are able to meet their teacher and briefly learn about grade-level expectations.
- Curriculum Night: Walk in your child’s shoes in this “mini” school day. You will rotate through your child’s schedule, visiting each class where you will have the opportunity to ask questions and learn about expectations for your child.
- Annual Title I Meeting: Please come for an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I Program including our School Parent Involvement Plan, District Parent Involvement Plan, Parent/School/Student Compact, the Title I Schoolwide Plan, how your parent involvement funds are spent, and other Title I requirements.
- Honors/Awards Programs: Designed to celebrate student success in academics, behavior, and attendance – come celebrate these achievements with students and staff.
- Parent Conference Meetings: Parents are encouraged to schedule conferences during our in-service days to discuss their student’s progress, accomplishments, and any areas that may need improvement.

NEED ASSISTANCE?

Pickens County Middle School is committed to helping parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Please call or email if you need childcare or other assistance in order to participate in our programs.
 Amberle Godfrey / 706-253-1700
 or
amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org

PARENT INVOLVEMENT AT PICKENS COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Pickens County Middle School believes parent involvement means the participation of parents in meaningful, two-way communication to support student academic achievement both in school and at home, as well as other school activities, including ensuring -

- ✓ Parents play an integral role in their child’s learning.
- ✓ Parents are active participants in their child’s education at school and at home.
- ✓ Parents are full partners in their child’s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making opportunities and as participants on advisory committees.
- ✓ Parents are involved in other activities as described in this plan.



PARENT ACTION COMMITTEE

The Pickens County School System along with Pickens County Middle School invites all parents to join the Pickens County Parent Action Committee. We invite you to share ideas and ways to involve other parents in building partnerships between school, family, and the community. The committee will meet twice yearly, but parents may submit their ideas and suggestions during activities and meetings as well through parent surveys and email. If you would like to learn more about PCPAC, please contact: Amberle Godfrey at 706-253-1700 or amberlegodfrey@pickenscountyschools.org.

PICKENS COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL IS REACHING OUT

Pickens County Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as important partners in strengthening and reaching school goals. We will:



- Ensure information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in English and other languages as needed, posted on the school website, and included in grade level newsletters.
- Educate staff members on strategic communication skills that will foster positive relationships with parents.
- Partner with Head Start and Prevent Child Abuse Pickens (Pickens Family Partners) to share information about school activities and newsletters, to prepare parents and their children for kindergarten, and to facilitate school transition.
- Share information via the school website and newsletters to help parents understand the school's academic standards/assessments, to assist parents in monitoring their child's progress, and to work with educators ensuring students' academic success.
- Communicate regularly regarding school-wide events and activities through phone messages, social media, school website, and/or flyers.
- Provide materials, as appropriate, to assist parents in working with their child to improve academic achievement.
- Work with parents to inform staff members of the importance of effective communication and parental involvement via newsletters and staff meetings.
- Collaborate with community leaders, business groups, and local residents to increase participation and awareness of school-parent involvement practices and activities.
- Listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support with parent involvement activities.

SCHOOL-PARENT-STUDENT COMPACT

As part of this plan, Pickens County Middle School and our parents will develop a school/parent/student compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop collaboratively. The compact explains how parents and teachers will work together to help all students achieve grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers using letters to be sent home, meetings, and the school website. School/parent/student compacts are kept with each child's teacher if parents need a copy.



SUGGESTION FORM



Please use this space to submit comments or suggestions.

Amberle Godfrey
 Parent Involvement Coordinator
 Pickens County Schools
 100 D.B. Carroll Street
 Pickens County, GA 30143



PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN

2015-16 School Year

100 D.B. Carroll Street | Jasper, GA 30143 | 706.253.1700 | pickenscountyschools.org

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

The Pickens County Board of Education recognizes that student academic success is directly linked, by research, to the quantity and quality of parental involvement. In an effort to provide an environment in which all Pickens County students have maximum opportunities to achieve their academic goals, Pickens County Schools will build capacity for parent involvement by working collaboratively with the parents and community. The goals of this collaboration will be to increase student academic performance and improve the quality of our schools by involving parents and community members in supporting school programs, expanding quality learning opportunities, reducing or removing barriers to participation, communicating information, and creating and maintaining a relevant parent involvement plan which is in compliance with the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965(ESEA)*.

PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Pickens County Schools agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

1. The school district will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.
3. The school district will incorporate this districtwide parental involvement plan into its Local Education Agency (LEA) plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
4. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
5. If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the Georgia Department of Education.
6. The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the one percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

7. The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents 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 at school;
- 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 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II: DESCRIPTION OF HOW DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

1. Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its districtwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

At the beginning of the year send a letter home, in the *Title I Packet*, with a copy of the District Parent Involvement Plan asking for parent input. Hold a PCPAC meeting to which all parents are invited, in a timely manner, asking for parent input. Have copies of the Parent Involvement Plan in the Parent Resource Center(s) at each school with feedback forms. Ask for input at our School Advisory Council meetings. (All meetings are open, and the public is invited to attend.)

2. Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

Parents are encouraged to attend the PCPAC meetings (Pickens County Parent Action Committee) where our Districtwide Parent Involvement Plan, school level Parent Involvement Plans, School Improvement Plans, Equity Plan, Title I Program Survey, are all reviewed as well as how the schools' Title I funds are spent.

3. Pickens County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

The district will involve school-level personnel and administrators in all parent meetings. All feedback from meetings and survey results will be shared with school-level administrators with the intent they share the information in their buildings. A newsletter will be sent to all school-level personnel with results from parents saying what they feel would be more effective in communication and what information they need to help with their students.

4. Pickens County will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Head Start and State-operated preschool programs, by:

Coordinating Kindergarten Round Up with Head Start and local daycare facilities that house State-operated preschools and the three Pre-K classes at Hill City Elementary School.

5. Pickens County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental engagement activities (with particular attention to support parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parental involvement plans.

A survey will be sent to all parents of Title I students, in a language they can understand, asking the effectiveness of our Title I programs. The System Parent Involvement Coordinator will be responsible for conducting the survey of all parents. We will ask parents to review and make suggestions on how the survey is worded so we will be provided with effective answers. This will be completed at the PCPAC meetings, as well as Title I Meetings and School Advisory Council meetings (all meetings are open to the public).

6. Pickens County Schools will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
 - a. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --
 - the State's academic content standards,
 - the State's student academic achievement standards,
 - the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
 - the requirements of Part A,
 - how to monitor their child's progress, and
 - how to work with educators which may include math and science nights, curriculum nights, book fairs, open house, writers workshops, Read Across America, materials sent home on how to access their child's grades and attendance, newsletters sent home informing parents of their rights and where to find information on state standards, Title I Packet sent home in a timely manner at the beginning of the year with all Title I documents and where to find information on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), the State and Federal Department of Education websites, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Handouts will be available at Title I meetings to assist parents in helping their student achieve academically.
 - b. With the assistance of its schools, the school district will, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement through such programs as literacy and technology training as appropriate, to foster parental involvement by:

Math and science nights, curriculum nights, book fairs, open house, writers workshops, Read Across America, materials sent home on how to access their child's grades and attendance, newsletters sent home informing parents of their rights and where to find information on state standards, Title I Packet sent home in a timely manner at the beginning of the year with all Title I documents and where to find information on the Georgia Performance Standards (GPS), the State and Federal Department of Education websites, and the Governor's Office of Student Achievement. Handouts will be available at Title I meetings to assist parents in helping their student achieve academically.
 - c. With the assistance of its schools and parents, the school district will, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:

A survey will be sent home with open-ended questions asking how we can more effectively communicate with and assist parents. Those responses are tallied, typed, and distributed to the administration in the schools and a newsletter is created encompassing those results and distributed electronically to the staff at each school.
 - d. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, public preschool and other

programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, to encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Coordinating Kindergarten Round-Up with Head Start and local daycare facilities that house State-operated preschool, and the three Preschool classes at Hill City Elementary School.

- e. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school-and-parent programs, meetings, and other activities, are sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Newsletters, Student Handbook, Code of Conduct, Survey, and other documents will be translated (to the extent practical). Translators will be available at Open House and Title I meetings (to the extent practical).
- f. Provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.

PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICTWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT PLAN COMPONENTS

NOTE: The Districtwide Parental Involvement Plan may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- Maximizing parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times; and
- Establishing a district-wide Parent Advisory Council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A Programs.