

Atkinson Elementary
Title I PARENT INVOLVEMENT POLICY
2009-2010

Atkinson Elementary School (AES) shall abide by and support all rules and regulations pertaining to **Title I, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Public Law 107-110, and the Coweta County Public Schools Office of Federal Programs** to procure, manage and utilize federal funds to provide relevant, quality educational opportunities for all students to develop the skills necessary to reach their maximum potential as responsible, productive citizens and life-long learners.

- The school will jointly develop with parents and distribute to parents of participating children, a School Parental Involvement Policy that the school and parents of all participating children agree on.
- The school will notify parents about the school Parental Involvement Policy in an understandable and uniform format and to the extent practical, will distribute this policy to parents in a language the parents can understand.
- The school will make the School Parental Involvement Policy available to the local community by posting it on their school's web-site.
- The school will annually update the School Parent Involvement Policy to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school.
- The school will adopt the Schools' Parent Compact as a component of its School Parent Involvement Policy.
- The school agrees to be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs and 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, such as School Council, PTO, and representatives on system Advisory Boards (Migrant and Title I), to assist in the education of their child;
- D. The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act ESEA.

<http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg2.html>

Annual Title I Orientation

As a school-wide Title I school, Atkinson Elementary School will hold an annual Title I Orientation meeting to which all parents will be invited. This meeting will be in conjunction with the school's Open House on Thursday, August 6, 2009. The meeting will begin promptly at 6:00 PM.

It is at this meeting that parents will have the opportunity to learn about the purpose, guiding principals, goals, and expected outcomes of the Title I program. Parents will be informed of the benefits and responsibilities associated with being a Title I school. The parents' role in the success of their students will be emphasized and the School-Parent-Student Compact will be shared.

Additionally, the Title I Parent Involvement Policy, Reform Strategies, and the annual budget will be shared and disseminated at this meeting. The timeline of parent activities and workshops, which is based on parent and community input, will be shared and further feedback regarding parents' needs and interests will be solicited. The Title I Plan and Parent Involvement Policy will be housed at the school and posted on the school's website for future reference.

Scheduling of Parent Events

AES understands that accessibility is vital to fostering parent involvement. For that reason, we have established a parent survey that will allow parents to let the leadership team know what they need in terms of workshops or trainings that are of interest. Based on survey results AES will incorporate varying times for meetings to accommodate the varying schedules of our stakeholders. Parents deserve clear communication about current federal, state, and local standards that apply to their children. For this reason, AES has planned workshops that will assist families in understanding the many educational initiatives that affect their children. All workshops are presented in a lively parent-friendly format facilitated by certified teachers and other staff members. Parent workshops this year will address topics such as homework help, standardized testing, state and national academic standards, internet safety, and test-taking and studying skills. Planned events will include child-care at no cost to the parents.

Parental Input in Decisions

AES values the expertise of parents when it comes to their children. Because of this belief, parent participation is an important component of the AES School Improvement Plan and the Title I Parent Involvement Policy. Input from parent evaluations of programs and activities, from parent involvement surveys, regularly scheduled Parent Teacher Organization meetings and from the annual Title I parent meeting is considered and included in the School Improvement Plan and the Parent Involvement Policy. At the Title I parent meeting, results of CRCT and other formative assessments are shared and the current SIP is reviewed. All comments and suggestions regarding the Title I School Plan and Parent Involvement Policy shall be collected, reviewed and considered in the revision of the plan by the School Improvement Committee.

Each year a parent needs survey is conducted with all parents. This survey is used to help plan for parent meetings and workshops. The needs of individuals are often met through conferences with support personnel such as the school social worker, counselor, and nurse, principal and/or assistant principal.

Communication and Information Dissemination

AES respects the busy schedules of parents and their desire to be informed and involved. Therefore, communication about the Title I program, the curriculum, and events is important. Copies of the Title I Plan and School Improvement Plan are available for review both in the front office and on the school's website. Upon request any parent or stakeholder may receive a copy of the SIP of Title I Plan for review. The School-Parent-Student Compact will be provided to all parents in their choice of English or Spanish. AES also encourages parents to attend any or all of the parent conferences scheduled throughout the year to learn about their child's progress. The leadership team will provide notices of all scheduled meetings via automated phone calls and flyers at least one week prior to the event. During regularly scheduled meetings, AES works to provide interpreters for speakers of other languages. In addition the students will be sent home with reminder flyers the day of the event. This practice ensures multiple notices of events.

School-Parent-Student Compact

The AES team realizes that it takes a team to educate our children. With this in mind, the AES faculty and staff will work with parents to build a team with a mutual understanding of all roles and responsibilities. The School-Parent-Student Compact is discussed and revised during Title I parent meetings. Both parents and staff are present for these meetings. The School-Parent-Student Compact is shared at the Annual Title I Meeting. Parents not in attendance for the meeting will receive a copy in the child's Monday Orange Folder. New parents/students to AES will receive a copy when they register. All parents are strongly encouraged to sign the School-Parent-Student Compact.

Resources for Academic Excellence

One of the goals for Atkinson Elementary is to provide motivation, opportunities, vision and educational experiences to help our students achieve their personal best. AES strives for academic excellence to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to becoming successful contributing members of a diverse society. The additional parent resources housed in our media center allow us to provide a rich environment for our students and their parents as well as additional academic support through highly trained personnel. We are also able to provide technical support and assistance to our parents so they are better prepared to help their children meet the demands of the 21st Century. In addition, the CCSS Parent Resource Center is located next door to our building in which parents can visit to receive knowledge through trainings or educational materials available for check out.

Parent-School Partnership

The faculty and staff realize that a parent is a child's first teacher and parents want their children to succeed. Parents are encouraged to monitor their child's progress and work in partnership with school staff in order to improve student achievement. Other ways parents can help AES improve student achievement include volunteering in the classroom, contacting the school with questions and comments, attending meetings and workshops, and working with their child at home. Communication about upcoming academic events and academic progress is sent home regularly. Parents are also encouraged to monitor their child's attendance and homework completion.

Training of Faculty and Staff for Effective Home-School Collaboration

Good communication takes practice. AES leadership provides an opportunity for staff to attend training on communicating with parents, working with families in need and the importance of fostering parent involvement in innovative ways. New teachers are supported through conferencing skills instruction during new teacher mentor sessions and observations. This training will also help gain strategies for working with students who have exceptional needs, or speak English as a second language.

Parent-School-Community Collaboration

AES has developed partnerships with several businesses and community based organizations throughout the city of Newnan with the specific purpose of fostering collaboration. Our business and community partners in education provide valuable resources to our students and their parents through workshops newsletters, brochures, and participation in our school council. Additionally, the leadership team has developed a collaborative partnership with our feeder middle and high schools with support from CCSS central office staff.