

Increasing Student Achievement Through Parent Engagement Strategies

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Title I Parental Involvement



Title I, Part A is a federally funded program under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965. It is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards in order to reinforce and amplify efforts to improve teaching and learning for students furthest from meeting state standards.



Title I Parental Involvement



The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) provides the Parent Engagement Program to assist and ensure that Title I, Part A Parent Involvement regulations are met with meaningful and strategic actions to **build parent capacity** in schools and school districts under the law.



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What Does Building Parent Capacity Mean?



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BUILD = To Grow or Develop

+

Parent

+

CAPACITY = Capability to perform/produce
Reaching maximum potential
Power to learn/retain knowledge



Building Parent Capacity Is...



Equipping parents with skills and competencies which they would not otherwise have

Training or mentoring that increases the skills of people or of a community



Creating a sustainable infrastructure necessary to meet the needs of parents to ensure academic achievement and student success



Parental Involvement Effect

Parent involvement

Parent engagement

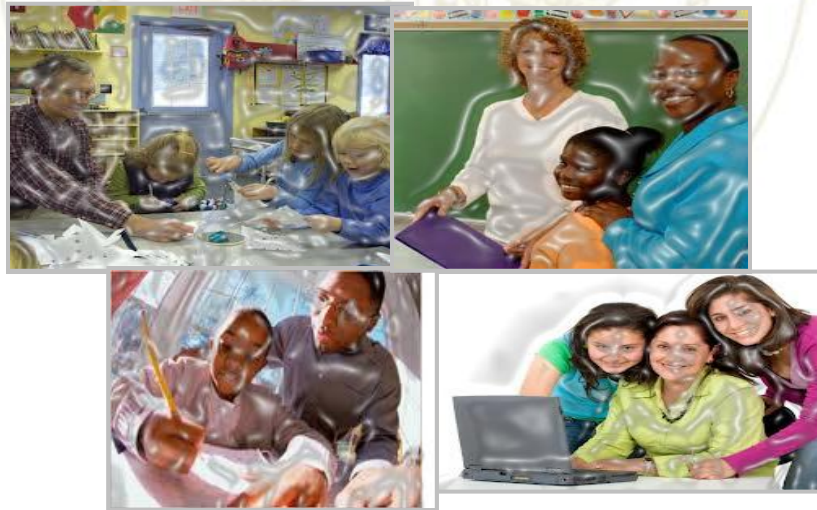
Academic achievement

student success



Building Parent Capacity

The National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which the State Board of Education adopted in 2010 as Georgia's Family Engagement Standards, provides an effective framework for schools to follow to build parent capacity.



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PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



The focus is not what schools should do to involve parents – it is what parents, schools, and communities can do **together** to support student success.



Welcoming All Families



Families are **active** participants in the life of the school and feel **welcomed**, **valued**, and **connected** to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class



Welcoming All Families Strategies

When schools...

- Establish a welcoming school environment that is inclusive of all parents
- Provide training to staff on innovative parent engagement practices as well as how to establish a welcoming school environment and culture for all families
- Ensure that all aspects of the school community reflect, respect, and value the diversity of your families
- Provide guidance to parents on what to do when entering the school or classrooms
- Honor parents who contribute to the school and their child's education by listening to them and thanking them in various ways throughout the year



Welcoming All Families Strategies

Then parents...

- Attend and participate more frequently in school events
- Visit the school and their child's classroom more often
- Inform teachers and the school about their ability and willingness to contribute
- Benefit from being involved in the opportunities provided by the school



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Communicating Effectively



Families and school staff engage in regular **two-way meaningful communication** about student learning



Communicating Effectively Strategies

When schools...

- Provide frequent and advance notices to families using all methods of communication and technology
- Ensure communications are in a family-friendly language and translated, if necessary, so all parents can understand
- Hold events and meetings at various times and locations
- Use the community to spread information and messages
- Initiate Parent Cafés and create small learning environments
- Update the school website on a regular basis to reflect relative information that is user-friendly
- Record meetings for parents to access at a later date
- Utilize parents to facilitate meetings and assist in the development of communications



Communicating Effectively Strategies

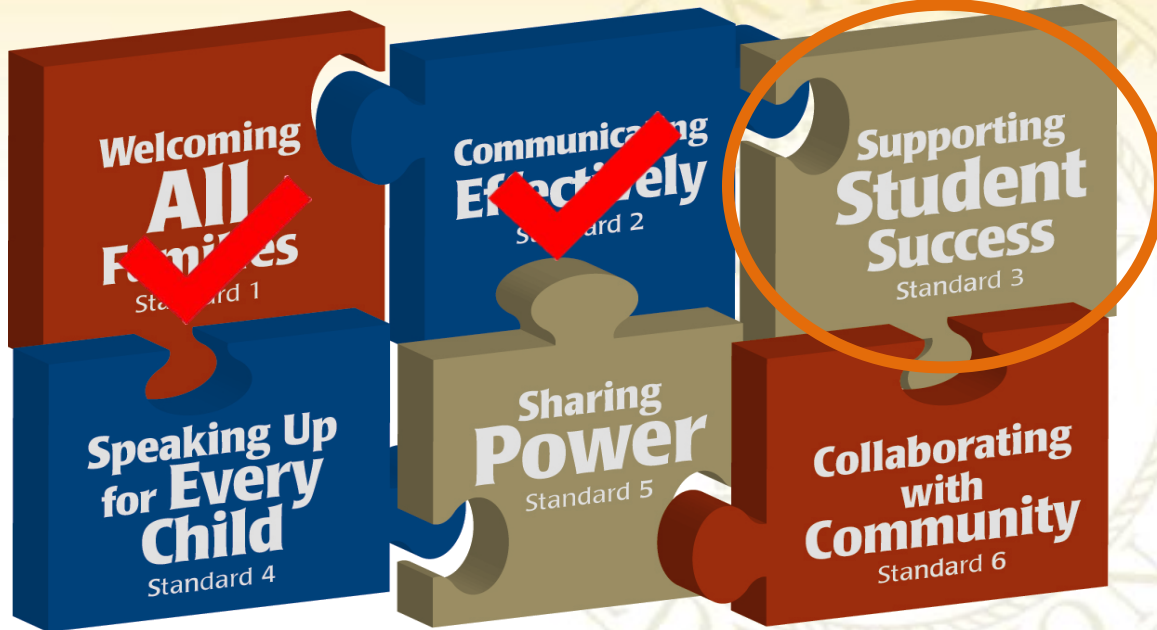
Then parents...

- Respond to school invitations, needs, and opportunities
- Gain an understanding of the school curriculum and the expectations for their child
- Communicate correct information to other parents to facilitate connections and conversations
- Learn effective ways to support student achievement
- Become active members of the school community



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Supporting Student Success



Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at **home** and at **school**, and have regular opportunities to **strengthen** their **knowledge** and **skills** to do so effectively



Supporting Student Success Strategies

When schools...

- Provide multiple opportunities for parents to learn about their child's education and ways they can support student learning at home
- Hold group parent-teacher conferences that help parents to set and achieve goals
- Develop interactive homework assignments that encourage parent input or support
- Involve parents in test preparation activities for students
- Link all school programs and activities to learning
- Establish a method for parents to review and support their child's work on a regular basis
- Host student led parent-teacher conferences



Supporting Student Success Strategies

Then parents...

- Monitor their child's attendance and progress on a regular basis to ensure growth and development
- Work with the school to establish academic and career goals for their child
- Invest in efforts to achieve school improvement goals
- Serve on various committees or councils designed to inform other families about school curriculum and assessments



Speaking Up for Every Child



Families are empowered to be **advocates** for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated **fairly** and have **access** to learning opportunities that will **support** their successes



Speaking Up for Every Child Strategies

When schools...

- Develop parents as leaders by starting a parent university or comparable training program
- Facilitate opportunities for parent networking during school events or programs
- Involve parents in action research and utilize parents to train other parents as well as school staff
- Provide opportunities for families to discuss issues that are of important for all children in their school community
- Designate parent representatives for all school committees and promote their participation in other community groups
- Encourage parents to volunteer by providing concrete ways they can contribute



Speaking Up for Every Child Strategies

Then parents...

- Learn about areas where the school needs to improve
- Offer assistance to support student learning in areas of need
- Advocate for Title I academic programs that will benefit all children
- Empower other parents to become leaders in their child's education
- Develop skills to build confidence in their abilities to better assist in their child's academic development



Sharing Power



Families and school staff are **equal** partners in decisions that affect children and families and together **inform, influence, and create** policies, practices, and programs



Sharing Power Strategies

When schools...

- Make it a goal to utilize parents as true partners and develop sustainable family-school-community partnerships
- Bring parents into the policy making process and seriously consider or address their recommendations for change
- Welcome and encourage parent feedback and input all year through surveys, comment cards, and other communications
- Provide parents with the knowledge and resources they need to become leaders for their children's education
- Ensure parents are actively recruited and understand they are wanted and needed to be a part of all school committees



Sharing Power Strategies

Then parents...

- Participate in parent meetings and provide input on parent activities that can increase student achievement
- Share ideas, raise concerns, or dialogue with school leaders



- Become parent leaders to recruit and train other parents to build an infrastructure
- Lend their skills and talents in various ways to strengthen parent engagement and support the school



Collaborating with the Community Strategies



Families and school staff collaborate with community members to **connect** students, families, and staff to **expand** learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation



Collaborating with the Community Strategies

When schools...

- Identify mutually beneficial partnerships with community members and invite them to share in your school's vision of student success
- Develop activities that encourage interaction with your local non-profit and community based organizations
- Open the school to community groups for them to host events and offer services and supports to families
- Work with local businesses to offer workshops or incentives
- Ask and seek out community members to sit on school committees and lend their expertise to develop programs



Collaborating with the Community Strategies

Then parents...

- Seek community partners who are able to serve on school committees
- Help host community forums that enable parents and other community partners to learn about school initiatives and develop a shared vision for student success
- Share school communications with areas of employment, community groups, and local businesses
- Develop a stronger trust with the school and understanding of the school's message

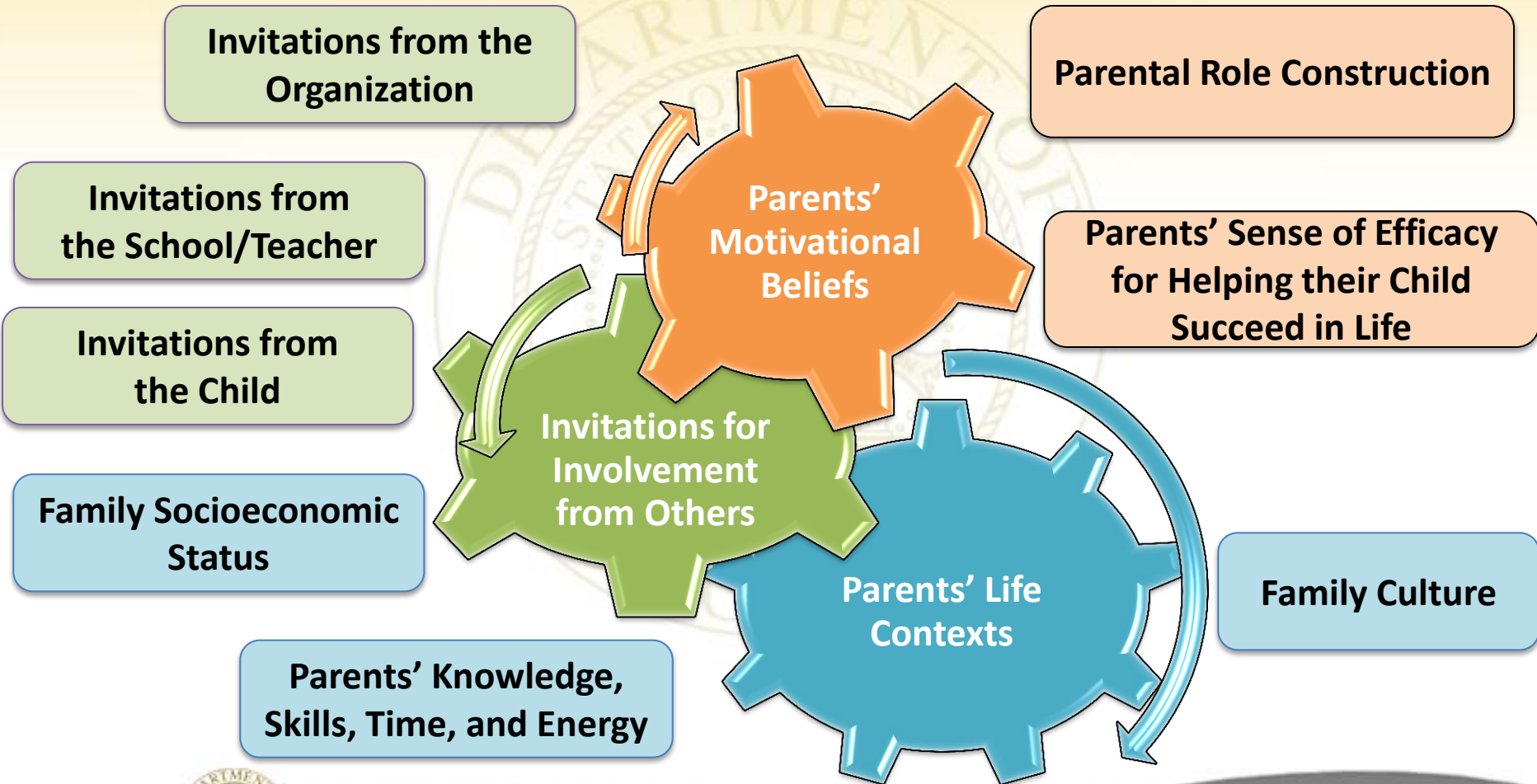


Final Strategies for Building Parent Capacity

- Seek ways to link and measure parent engagement activities to student achievement
- Recognize and reward outstanding parent engagement practices
- Visit other schools and districts, talk to colleagues throughout Georgia, and research successful parent engagement programs
- Ensure that parents have the necessary knowledge and resources to be involved in their child's education



What Motivates Parents to Become Involved?



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Parent Engagement Resources



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Parent Engagement Program



Parent Engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success.

The Georgia Department of Education's Parent Engagement Program ensures that Title I, Part A parental involvement regulations are met with meaningful and strategic actions to build parent capacity as mandated by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). Schools and districts must ensure that strong strategies are in place to: 1) build capacity to involve parents/stakeholders in an effective partnership with the school; and 2) share and support high student academic achievement.

The research is clear that when schools and families support each other, students of all backgrounds and various abilities achieve at higher levels. Therefore, the Parent Engagement Program believes that parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains across the board in student achievement. The goal of the Parent Engagement Program is to increase student achievement by engaging and empowering parents to become actively involved in their children's education across all grade levels. To achieve this goal, the Parent Engagement Program:

Contact Information

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Parent Engagement Programs' Links

- [Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative](#)
- [Parent Involvement Compliance Documents](#)
- [Best GET INVOLVED Parent Videos](#)
- [Information for Parents](#)
- [Parent Engagement Month 2012](#)
- [Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council](#)
- [PIC Meetings: Minutes and Materials](#)
- [Presentations](#)
- [Modules and Workshop Templates](#)
- [360-Degrees of Family Engagement Process](#)
- [Parent Engagement Resources](#)
- [External Partners](#)
- [Laws and Regulations](#)



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Professional Development Opportunity 2014 Georgia Family Engagement Conference

**For Educators
and Parents
TOGETHER...**

**More Details
to Come...
Budget Now**



**A Partnership
Conference of
GaDOE,
Title I, Part A,
Georgia PTA,
and
United Way**

January 9 – 11, 2014

The Classic Center, Athens, GA

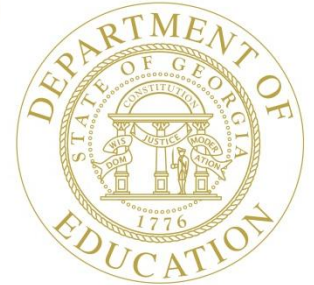


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Questions



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