Parental Involvement

Do	Don't
Allow all parents to have an equal opportunity to give input on school-related issues that impact their children.	Invite the same parents or rely solely on your parent advisory group, PTA, or PTO for parental support and feedback on certain school related issues.
Base the time and location of your Annual Title I meeting on your parent survey results to ensure you receive as much parent participation as possible.	Establish a time that is most convenient for the staff or limit the location of the Annual Title I meeting to a school setting only.
Seek parent support and attendance at meetings by sending out the agenda beforehand, advertising the event in multiple ways, and including topics that parents have expressed an interest in learning more about to assist in the academic achievement of their child. Invite a guest speaker or expert to help teach the class.	Entice parents to attend meetings based solely on food being served. (Remember when food is to be served, light refreshments only!)
Seek parent and student input when developing your school-parent compacts and make sure that all parties (parents, school, and students) are fully aware of their accountability as described in the compact.	Ask parents and students to sign school-parent compacts that have not personally been explained to them and/or that they have not helped you to develop.
Educate your teachers, administrators, and school staff about your role as it relates to parent engagement/parent involvement, provide them with frequent updates and inform them about how their support can help you be more successful in your role.	Assume that all of the teachers, administrators, and school staff know what your role is as it relates to parent engagement/parent involvement.

Do	Don't
Seek input and collaboration with your professional allies such as the homeless liaison, school counselor, parent mentor, social worker, early education partners and graduation coaches. Work smarter!	Make your job twice as complicated and three times more stressful by continuing to do everything alone without the input and help of others.
Research, research, research opportunities for professional development and training on your own. Take advantage of webinars and on-line trainings that are provided without the cost travel expenses.	Rely solely on your Title I Director, Principal, and the Georgia Department of Education for professional development training in parent engagement/parent involvement.
Make it a practice to ALWAYS keep documentation of your work. Keep agendas, minutes, and sign-in sheets from all parent meetings in a notebook or other filing system of choice. Send out parent notices on time each year and keep the required documentation in your records.	Wait until you are notified that you will be monitored to start getting organized, complete necessary documentation, and send out the required notices to parents.
Reach out to your community partners for their support in recognizing exceptional parents and establish a set time to administer such awards. This will provide an opportunity for parents to work towards an achievement, much like students who excel throughout the year and are often recognized during an awards program at the end of the year.	Spend an excessive amount of time and resources on providing incentives, gifts, and other forms of notoriety to parents throughout the entire school year. (And don't use Title I funds to provide incentives or gifts).
Proactively seek ways to improve parent engagement/parent involvement at your school and in your district. It is imperative that you strive to remain in compliance according to federal guidelines, but you should also make it a goal to have a quality program that genuinely benefits parents and students alike.	Do the <u>bare minimum</u> to meet all federal guidelines that are required for you to remain in compliance.