

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2023-2024

Sweetwater Elementary School

Parent and Family Engagement Plan for
Shared Student Success
2023-2024



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Plan revised on June 1, 2023

What is Title I?

Sweetwater Elementary is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). 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 and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it? This is a plan that describes how Sweetwater Elementary will provide opportunities to improve parent engagement to support student learning. Sweetwater Elementary values the contributions and involvement of parents and families in order to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways Sweetwater Elementary will support parent engagement. Parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it developed? Sweetwater Elementary School invited all parents to attend our Parent Input meetings to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the school-wide plan, our school-parent compact and the parent and family engagement budget. The plan is on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online and by paper to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for parent and family engagement. Parents may also express their suggestions and opinions by using the comment cards, which are available in the front office, in the Parent Resource Center, and at all parent meetings and workshops.

Who is it for? All students and their families participating in the Title I/Part A program, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Sweetwater Elementary will provide full opportunity for the participation of families with limited English, families with disabilities, and families of migratory children.

Where is it available? The plan is located in the **Title I section** of the school website and sent home with all students at the beginning of the school year. The Douglas County School District Parent and Family Engagement Plan and the School-Parent Compact is sent home with students as well. You can also retrieve a copy of the plan along with other materials from the Parent Resource Center located next to the Media Center.

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2023-2024 District Goals

The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or Distinguished Learner on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) English Language Arts and Math End of Grade Assessments will increase by six percentage points.

2023-2024 School Goals

Based upon the data from 2022-2023, the following goals have been set for the students at Sweetwater Elementary School:

The percentage of students scoring at Proficient or Distinguished Learner on the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) English Language Arts and Math End of Grade Assessments will increase by six percentage points.

The focus for reading is:

- K-2 Sight Words
- 3-5 Reading Fluency & Reading Lexile's

The focus for mathematics is:

- K-5 Basic facts fluency
- 3-5 Multistep word problems

School-Parent Compacts

Sweetwater Elementary and our families have developed a school-parent compact for each grade level for part of this plan. The compact is an agreement that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure our students reach our school goals. Parents are required to read and sign the compact for each of their children at SES. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers throughout the school year and during Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings. The school-parent compacts will be reviewed during parent-teacher conferences.

Let's Get Together!

Sweetwater Elementary will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Events will be publicized via flyers, the school website, and signage. Dates and times are subject to change.

Parent Advisory Council/School Council: Meeting #1: September 12, 2023 at 4pm & September 13, 2023 at 12 noon; Meeting #2: January 11, 2024 at 4pm & January 12, 2024 at 12 noon and Meeting #3: May 7, 2024 at 4pm & May 8, 2024 at 12 noon.

Annual Title I Meeting-Tuesday, August 22, 2023 at 5pm and Wednesday, August 23, 2023 at 12 noon

- ✓ We invite you to a daytime or evening meeting to learn and share about our Title I program including academic support for student achievement and opportunities for parent involvement. These meetings will be conducted in person and digitally on Google Meets.

Attendance Matters-Wednesday, September 13, 2023 at 10am

- ✓ Our counselor and School Social Worker will discuss the attendance policy and the importance of being in school every day

Safety and Discipline- Tuesday, September 15, 2023 at 9am

New Math Standards, October 4, 2023 at 9am

- ✓ Get to know the new math standards

Thanksgiving Feast- November 8, 2023 (during lunch times) and November 9, 2023 (during lunch times).

Literacy Night and STEM Night-December 7, 2023 at 5pm

Real Men Read- December 7, 2023 and March 7, 2024

Winter Wonderland Breakfast January 10, 2024 and January 11, 2024 at 7:15am

Top Topics of Parent Surveys- January 10, 2024 and January 11, 2024 at 7am

Testing Tips-Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 5pm

- ✓ Hear from our counselor and others about how to support and prepare your child for Georgia Milestones, our state's end-of-grade assessment. We will also cover testing for GKIDS.

Technology Talk –Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 9am and Friday, February 9, 2024 at 12 noon.

- ✓ Hear information about how to protect your child from some of the dangers of social media and see a demonstration of the great technology our students and teachers use every day!

Walk a Mile with Mom-Thursday, May 10, 2024 (K-5th) from 8:45-9:30 am

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Parent and Family Engagement

Sweetwater Elementary believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, to ensure student success. We believe that --

- families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
- 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;
- other activities described in this plan should be carried out.

Sweetwater Elementary is committed to helping our families attend the activities listed in this plan and may be able to help those who need assistance to participate in our programs.

Ms. Tanish Springer., Principal
Jenny Gramling/Parent Outreach Facilitator
770-651-4600

All parents are encouraged to visit the Parent Resource Center. Many educational resources are available for parents to check out.

Sweetwater Elementary values our families!

Sweetwater Elementary will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will –

- ✓ ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish as needed and when possible and posted on the school website and included in the monthly school newsletter for all parents.
- ✓ conduct staff development twice a year on parent and family engagement practices and effective strategies for staff to communicate and build partnerships with parents.
- ✓ partner with Head Start to share school information about parent engagement activities that will help prepare parents and their child for kindergarten and improve school transition.
- ✓ share information on the school website and in the school newsletter for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- ✓ communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding schoolwide events and activities, such as phone messages, Parent Post, and flyers.
- ✓ provide necessary materials for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- ✓ offer parent workshops to inform parents about the curriculum and to suggest strategies for helping students at home.
- ✓ listen and respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.
- ✓ maintain a Parent Resource Center with educational resources for parents to check out.
- ✓ In cases where the students reside in a Neglected and Delinquent residential facility, a representative from that facility can serve as a proxy for the parent(s).



Student Achievement



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Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Sweetwater Elementary and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community.

These standards are –

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

School Community Team

Sweetwater invites all parents to participate in the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and to share ideas and ways to involve other parents to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet three times during the school year, but parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions during all activities and meetings as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the PAC, please contact Ms. Tanish Springer at (770) 651-4600 or complete the interest form and leave it in the Main Office.

Parent Advisory Council

- Yes, I am excited about joining the Parent Advisory Council
- Yes, please contact me so I can learn more about the Parent Advisory Council
- Yes, this sounds like a great idea, please keep me posted about future meetings

Name: _____

Child's Name and Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Parent Advisory Council Meeting Dates for 2023-2024:

Sept. 12, 2023 @ 4pm & Sept. 13, 2023 @12 noon; Jan.11, 2024 @ 4pm & Jan. 12, 2024 @ 12 noon and May 7, 2024 @ 4pm; May 8, 2024 @12 noon.



Share Your Thoughts

We want 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 students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____

