

# Stewart County School District 2023-24 Parent and Family Engagement Plan

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Revised September 2023  
1031 Spring Street  
Dover, TN 37058  
www.stewartcountyschools.net

## What is family engagement?

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Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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.
- (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 1116 of the ESSA.



## About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

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In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Stewart County School System (SCSS) has developed this parent and family engagement plan that establishes the district’s expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district’s Title I schools. This plan will describe SCSS’s commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive family engagement at every level of the program, such as in the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children’s education. Consistent with Section 1116, the SCSS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement plans meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

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**When students, schools, families, and communities work together,  
we can achieve GREATness!**

## Jointly Developed

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Annually parents and families are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan. The LEA will notify families and parents on how to provide feedback. Additionally, each Title I school uses its Parent Advisory Committee to review the district parent and family engagement plan before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement plan was incorporated into the District Plan, which was submitted to the state. Families are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time via email to [benduncan@stewartcountyschools.org](mailto:benduncan@stewartcountyschools.org) or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July was included with the plan for this school year

The district parent and family engagement plan was posted on district website and discussed during the annual Title I school meetings during the school year.

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### Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FEC to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, in the spring the district will dedicate time for principals and the FEC to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

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### Reservation of Funds

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SCSS will reserve at least 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives annually to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Each Title I school will host an annual School Improvement Meeting in the spring for families to provide suggestions how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Feedback and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

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## Opportunities for Meaningful Parent and Family Consultation

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Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to provide feedback via opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

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**Annual District Survey ~ Spring** Family input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for families to provide their comments.

**School Improvement Meetings ~ Spring** During this meeting, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in round-table discussions to review the school-wide plan, the school's parent and family engagement plans as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations and notify parents about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites or social media.

**Annual Title I Informational Meetings ~ Fall** All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Stewart County School District and individual schools, as well as review and provide input into the district and school parent and family engagement plan and the comprehensive District Improvement Plan. Notices regarding this meeting will be distributed to all parents in advance of the meeting.

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Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit the Federal Programs Page at [www.stewartcountyschools.net](http://www.stewartcountyschools.net) to review the documents and leave your input.



Scan the code with your smartphone or tablet to access family engagement information from the SCSS website



The SCSS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following district-wide activities and programs such as PTCO Teams and/or Parent Advisory Committees.

### *Of Parents:*

The SCSS will work as a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The SCSS will provide information for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Tennessee students including alternative forms of assessment. This information will be available at [www.stewartcountyschools.net](http://www.stewartcountyschools.net). Also, these topics will be covered with students' teachers and school during parent teacher conferences (two per year) and school newsletters. District and school websites and the district Center for Teaching and Learning are valuable resources to families. Families also have access to adopted math and ELA curricula online.

The SCSS will also coordinate pages on the district and school websites and via their school of origin that will contain resources and materials which may include parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and Scope/Sequences for each course, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. Information on how to access Skyward, Clever, and online curricula will be distributed to parents and families annually.

Additionally, each school hosts an annual literacy night to work with families on how to work with their children to improve literacy achievement.

SCSS will always look for ways to gather feedback from businesses and community-based organizations centered around being involved in the development of family engagement opportunities. Recent partners include but are not limited to The Stewart County Chamber of Commerce, The Friends of LBL, The Stewart County Public Library, and The Stewart County Department of Health, F&M Bank, Farm Bureau.

The SCSS works hard to arrange school meetings at a time convenient to families. Each school hosts parent-teacher conferences two times annually during after-school hours. Each Title I school has a parent-advisory committee that meets to provide information to school leaders on how to build parents' capacity and identify possible barriers to parent involvement.

The SCSS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring and late summer, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Ready days so parents may tour the schools and receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten. The SCSS will also coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources. Each school will also host an open house event at the beginning of each school year.

### *Of School Staff:*

The SCSS will conduct trainings and monthly meetings during the school year for principals to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty

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and staff of Title I schools. The SCSS or building principal will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format (e.g. weekly or monthly newsletter). At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and PTCO/PTC meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, social media and other school message systems to post information for parents.

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### Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the SCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement plan and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in the spring, each a survey will be conducted. The survey for parents will be used to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, each Title I school will also use the School Improvement Forum to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs of families and to design strategies for more effective family engagement. The SCSS will use the findings from the school forums and the survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement plans.



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### Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district federal programs director will communicate and collaborate with the ESL and SPED directors to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

## For Parents

- Annual Parent and Family Survey: April/May 2024
- School Improvement Meetings:
  - February 27, 2024 - North Stewart Elementary
  - March 14, 2024 - Dover Elementary
  - February 22, 2024 - Stewart County Middle School
- Annual Title I Meetings:
  - August 1, 2023 - Stewart County Middle School
  - September 7, 2023 - Dover Elementary
  - September 12, 2023 - North Stewart Elementary

## For Schools

- Opening Day/Informational Session: August 4, 2023– Stewart County Middle School
- Principal Meetings: monthly

\*\* All dates are tentative and subject to change \*\*

## Adoption

This district wide parent and family engagement plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel during meetings.

The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children. The plan will be evaluated annually.

