

**Porterdale Elementary School
School Parent and Family
Engagement Policy
2023-2024 School Year**



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What is Title I?

Porterdale Elementary School is identified as a Title I School as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). 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, a written parental involvement policy.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What it is?

The mission of Porterdale Elementary School is to provide a quality, rigorous, and relevant education to all students so that all may have the opportunity to develop and succeed in a competitive and changing global society. The vision of Porterdale Elementary School is that all students become college and career ready individuals, critical thinkers, and productive citizens who continue to learn for life. Porterdale Elementary School believes that it takes both the school and parents to support the common goal of student achievement. To guarantee student success, a partnership between the school and parents is vital. At Porterdale Elementary School, we recognize that parents are their child's primary teachers and their support is critical in our efforts to provide a quality education to the children. This policy will describe how the school will provide opportunities for parents to be involved in planning and participating in activities to encourage student learning at school and at home.

How is it developed?

Input and feedback from parents are always welcomed at Porterdale Elementary. Last spring, Porterdale invited all parents to attend our Revision and Development of the Title I Program meeting where parents discussed, reviewed and gave input to revise this School Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Title I Schoolwide Plan, School-Parent Compact, building staff capacity, Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), 1% Budget Allocation of Funds, and District Parent and Family Engagement Policy. Throughout the school year parents are invited and encouraged to participate in Parent University (Title I) activities and events that were created based on the prior year's parental feedback. At the end of each activity, parents provide feedback and evaluate the effectiveness of the activity. Parents have the opportunity to view the policy on our school website and submit feedback throughout the school year. Parent feedback is also gathered from an annual survey, available both online and paper, to receive suggestions on the policy and the use for parent involvement funds. All feedback received will be used to revise the policy for the next school year.

Who is it for?

Since Porterdale Elementary has a schoolwide Title I, Part A program, all students and their families are invited and encouraged to actively participate in the parent and family activities and events described in this policy. Porterdale Elementary School provides resources that will offer a full opportunity for the inclusion of all parents, including parents with Limited English proficiency, parents of students with disabilities, and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

The policy is sent home to all parents, along with the School-Parent Compact, at the beginning of the school year. It is available in both English and Spanish. In addition, it is located on the Porterdale website in English and Spanish and a paper copy can also be provided to parents on request.

Newton County Mission Statement

The mission of Newton County Schools is to provide educational excellence to all students. To accomplish this mission, the following goal has been set.

Goal: Strategic Goal Area I: Student achievement and success

- Improve student mastery of standards
- Increase opportunities for students to demonstrate success beyond test scores
- Increase graduation rate

Porterdale Academic Goals:

*Increase reading by at least 3% as measured by Fastbridge by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

*Increase math by at least 3% as measured by Fastbridge by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

School-Parent Compacts

Porterdale Elementary School and parents will design a School-Parent Compact, which is an agreement that the school, teachers, parents, and students will make to each other. It will explain how teachers and parents will work together to make sure all students are learning the grade-level Georgia Standards of Excellence. The compacts will be revised annually, including feedback from parents, teachers, and students through the surveys conducted during the school year.

Parent and Family Engagement Program and Activities

Porterdale Elementary School provides many activities throughout the school year to build the capacity for strong parental and family involvement. With the ultimate goal being increased student achievement, the activities will be academic-based to help foster a strong home-school partnership. A calendar listing the Title I activities for the school year is sent home, along with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy in September and is revisited at each scheduled event. Meetings are offered at times convenient for parents. In addition, this information is posted on the school's website. Porterdale communicates upcoming activities via flyers, school marquee, school website, Twitter, Facebook, and School Messenger.

Annual Title I Parent Orientation – August 10, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

An evening designed to provide parents information about our Title I program, policy, compact, and Schoolwide Plan.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – September 15, 2023

Scheduled opportunities for parents and teachers to discuss their child's progress.

Math Night – October 5, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.

Parents will be invited to participate in this hands-on math night to learn about various strategies they can use at home that align with the strategies being taught in the classroom.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – February 3, 2024

Scheduled opportunities for parents and teachers to discuss their child's progress.

Reading with a Purpose - March 7, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Literacy themed activities and reading strategies are in store for parents as they learn how to apply these resources at home with their child. To make it fun for the whole family, participants will be encouraged to dress up as their favorite book character.

Annual Title I Stakeholder Input Meeting – April 11, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback of the Title I Program. Their input will help guide the planning for the following school year.

Parent Engagement Funds

Did you know that each LEA that receives more than \$500,000 in Title I, Part A funds, shall reserve at least one percent of its allocation to assist schools to carry out the parental engagement activities? Attend our Annual Title I Stakeholder's Input Meeting to give your input on how we can use our funds to provide you with the tools, resources and strategies to help your child reach academic success.

Annual Title I Stakeholder Input Meeting – April 11, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Parental Involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way communication involving student academic learning and other activities. Porterdale Elementary School encourages all parents to:

- ◆ be actively involved in their child's education by attending events such as Parent-Teacher Conferences, Title I events, and PTO meetings;
- ◆ communicate via phone, e-mail, agenda, and/or social media;
- ◆ participate in the decision-making process of the education of their child;
- ◆ serve on advisory committees;
- ◆ assist in the learning process of their child;
- ◆ help promote a positive attitude of the school, teachers, and community.



Building Capacity

Porterdale Elementary welcomes parent feedback and provides opportunities such as parent surveys, meeting evaluations, verbal suggestions, etc. for parents to give their input. The Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be posted on the school website, made available during various school meetings, and upon parent request for parents to review and give feedback.

The school will...

- ◆ inform parents about state academic standards, state academic achievement standards, Title I requirements and how to monitor their child's academic progress and work with educators via parent workshops and programs, meetings, and Infinite Campus.
- ◆ communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events and activities via School Messenger, social media, flyers, school marquee, PBIS, Class Dojo, and/or school website.
- ◆ provide parents with current curriculum and standards expectations (including the harms of copyright piracy), as well as standardized testing updates through events such as Curriculum Night, parent-teacher conferences, and planned Title I activities.
- ◆ provide parents with hands-on materials from conferences, meetings, and events that will aide them in helping their children at home to increase student achievement.
- ◆ continue to offer support to the staff throughout the school year during Professional Learning Communities (PLC) for ways to effectively communicate and build partnerships with parents.
- ◆ review results of parent surveys with the staff so that improvements can be made between the school-home connection.
- ◆ offer all parents access to the Parent Resource Center during school hours, as well as during parent events held throughout the school year.
- ◆ partner with the Pre-K program to help prepare parents and their child for kindergarten and improve school transition.
- ◆ ensure that all information related to Title I programs and events are published in English and Spanish, and posted on the school website.
- ◆ provide quality and relevant activities based on needs and interests via parent survey results and activity feedback comments.

Continuous Communication

All informed, engaged, and supportive family plays an instrumental role in a student's academic success. The Newton County School System supports families in partnerships with schools, district, and the community in the quest of achieving academic success for all students. Here are some ways that we provide continuous communication with our parents to ensure that learning is continued beyond the school day.

- Parent Connect Canvas Page
- Teacher Canvas Pages
- Twitter
- Facebook
- School's Website
- Wednesday Folder
- Parent Weekly Newsletter via Email



Our parents are invited to drop by the Parent Resource Center. Many reading and math materials are available for check out. During school hours or scheduled parent events, parents may visit the Resource Center and check items out to take home and use with their child. This is a great way to help support learning beyond the school day!

Contact: Title I Parent Contact
Taya Combs
for an appointment



Measures of Effectiveness

- ⇒ **Parent Meeting Evaluation**-to gather feedback from the parents to evaluate the effectiveness of the meeting and to gain insight on parent academic support for future meetings.
- ⇒ **Parent Survey Data**-to gain insight on Porterdale Elementary School's effectiveness in meeting the needs of parents in various areas such as technology, parent workshop topics, and school climate so that we can create an environment that meets the needs of all parents and families.
- ⇒ **Revision and Development Stakeholders Meeting:** to give all stakeholders the opportunity to give input to build the effectiveness on the:
 - * Parent and Family Engagement Policy-School and District
 - * School-Parent Compact
 - * Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP)
 - * Title I Schoolwide Plan
 - * Build Staff Capacity
 - * Parent Involvement 1% Funding
- ⇒ **Student Outcomes:** to assess if strategies and activities, as outlined on the school-parent compacts are effectively impacting student achievement.
- ⇒ **Multiple Opportunities for Input:** Porterdale Elementary School will provide several opportunities for parents and families to give input on the effectiveness of the Title I Program. Parents can access our Title I Schoolwide Plan, The Parent and Family Engagement Policy, and the School-Parent Compact on our school's website. These documents are also located in our Parent Resource Section.

BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Porterdale Elementary School believes that “It Takes a Village” to raise children. There are many opportunities throughout the year to help the school.

- ◆ Parents are always welcome to volunteer. For example, Career Day in the Fall, mentoring programs, LLC (media center) for Book Fairs, Field Day in May, etc.
- ◆ The PTO is a way to contribute time and talents. There are several events during the year, such as Fall Festival and Secret Santa Workshop, just to name a few. Please contact the school’s PTO president for further information.
- ◆ Of course, our teachers can use the support of parent volunteers, too. From helping with bulletin boards, to cutting out materials, to reading with students, parent volunteers are needed. If you are interested in volunteering in a classroom, please contact your child’s homeroom teacher to make arrangements.

Together, we will create a village filled with higher learning and high expectations. We appreciate all of our parent volunteers!



Parent Comments and Suggestions

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions, or if there is any part of the schoolwide program plan that you feel needs to be adjusted, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the main office:

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____

Comments/Suggestions:
