

2021-2022 District Goals

- Goal 1: To improve academic achievement.
- Goal 2: To ensure fiscal responsibility and effective resource stewardship.
- Goal 3: To provide a safe and secure environment for students and employees.
- Goal 4: To engage parents and other community stakeholders.

Family/Parent - School Compacts

A Family/Parent - School Compact for Achievement is an agreement that parents, families, students, and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. We will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help students achieve this goal.

- On April 13, 2021, our Annual Family/Parent Forum was held to review and update our Parent-School Compacts based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers. Additionally, the annual Spring Family Engagement Survey gathers input from parent and families.
- Compacts will be distributed during Open House, posted on the school's webpage, and sent home with students for parents who were unable to attend. A parent acknowledgement form will also be sent home.

Gadsden Elementary School will provide transition parent meetings and family events in to support students and their families transitioning from Pre-Kindergarten to Kindergarten and from 5th grade to middle school.

Let's Get Together

Gadsden Elementary will host the following events to help build family engagement to support a partnership among the school, families, and the community to improve student academic achievement. We will inform families of the requirements for the school's Title I participation, as well as the family's right to be involved. Meetings will be announced 2 weeks in advance by call-outs, e-mails, flyers, etc. All meetings for families will be held at various times during the day to accommodate family schedules.

Open House – August..., 2021

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff.

Title I Annual Meeting – September 9, 2021 9:30 am and again at 5:00 am

We invite you to learn about our Title I program, family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, school-family compact, and parent's rights under Title I. Also learn about student assessments results and how to interpret those results.

PTA Night – August 17, 2021; September 16, 2021; December 14, 2021.

Updates on your child's educational program

Kindergarten Orientation – March 2022 (TBA)

Learn about the expectations for Kindergarten.

Annual Title I Parent Forum – April 12, 2022

Review and provide input for revising the Family Engagement Policy, Family/Parent -School Compact, and Schoolwide Plan.

As a part of the SCCPSS, Gadsden Elementary takes part in the Balanced Literacy (BL) and Eureka Math (EM) initiatives. BL uses both whole language and phonics. The goal of BL is to include the strongest elements of each. EM connects math to the real world in ways that take the fear out of math and build student confidence. All students in grades K-5 will be taught the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) with expected mastery and assessed with MAP three times per year. Students in grades 3-5 will take the GMAS at the end of the year.

Jointly Developed Partnership

Gadsden Elementary believes that family engagement means the participation of families in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- That 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.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in the plan.
- That families are involved in the decisions regarding the 1% funds allocated for family engagement, by completing surveys and providing feedback / input during the annual Family Forum. The school collects feedback and input to make decisions on the budget.

Family Engagement Standards

Gadsden Elementary and our families have adopted the National PTA standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging families, students, and the community. The standards are:

- Welcoming All Families
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- Collaborating with Community, Feeder Middle and High Schools.

Families are welcome to volunteer and mentor at our school. Please contact Africa Hicks at Africa.hicks@sccpss.com to get signed up through Volunteer Beacon or visit <http://www.sccpss.com/page52.html>. This program allows stakeholders to be more active in our school and community.

Robert W. Gadsden Elementary School

919 May Street
(912) 395-5940

2021-2022 Family Engagement Policy

Dr. Renee Bryant-Evans
Principal

Dr. Monica Simmons
Assistant Principal

What is Title I?

Gadsden 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 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 family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents a written family engagement policy.

Revised 04/19/2021



School Policy for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a policy that describes how Gadsden Elementary will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Gadsden Elementary values the contributions and engagement of parents and families to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. The plan describes the different ways that Gadsden Elementary will support family engagement and how parents and families can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

Gadsden Elementary invites all parents and families to attend our Family Forum, held annually each spring to provide input on the development of this policy. Additionally, surveys are sent home and feedback is gathered from meetings and events to ensure family input. The policy and Family/School Compacts are jointly developed annually based on family, teacher and student input.

Gadsden Elementary believes in building ties between home and school is key to student success. Gadsden Elementary will work to implement and coordinate family programs to strengthen the student outcomes, parent supports, and the larger Gadsden Elementary community.

Gadsden Elementary School's Principal will submit to the district Title I office via email any comments of parents who feel the schoolwide Improvement Plan is not satisfactory.

Who is it for?

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

Where is it available?

We will distribute the policy in July during the scheduled Open House. For families unable to attend the policy will be sent home with students with other documentation distributed during the Open House. The policy will also be posted on the school website. Additional copies of the Family Engagement Policy in the Parent Center.

School – Family -Community Team

Gadsden Elementary invites all families to join our School Council to share ideas and ways to involve other families to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but parents/families can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent/family surveys. If you would like to learn more about the School Council, please contact the principal at (912) 395-5940 or complete an interest form and leave it in the main office.



Website: www.gadsden.sccpss.com

Gadsden Elementary is Reaching Out!

Gadsden Elementary will take the following measures to develop a partnership with families to help children achieve state academic standards as well as promote and support families 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 family programs, meetings, and other activities is posted on the school website, mentioned during the principal's call-out, sent in a family friendly language to include the home language to the extent possible, posted on the marquee, and sent home on flyers with students.
- Provide monthly trainings for all teachers and staff on strategies to improve communication with families and ideas to increase family engagement. Staff will also share best practices during regularly scheduled faculty meetings highlighting the value and utility of families and their contributions as equal partners.
- Share information in grade-level newsletters for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments and interpretation of results as well as the ways families can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.
- Work with families to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our teachers, specialized instructional support, principals, and other school leaders and other staff on the importance of family engagement and effective communication.
- Provide necessary materials and handouts partnering with families at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement.
- Use the PTA and School Council to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school family engagement policy.
- Offer literacy and computer classes for families and parents to help further enhance their various educational skills including education about harms of copyright piracy. Families are encouraged to give suggestions for topics they would like to learn more about.
- Collect feedback from families at all events and have a suggestion box in the Parent Center so that

Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday-Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Gadsden Elementary is committed to helping our families attend activities listed in this plan. Please call if you need assistance with child-care or transportation in order to participate in our programs.

Family Engagement Facilitator
Africa Hicks at Africa.hicks@sccpss.com
(912) 395-5940

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