

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district Federal & Special Programs Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with district office personnel 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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
February/March 2024

Spring Planning Meetings
Feb/Mar 2024
Local Foothills sites
Electronic Meetings

Electronic Input Opportunity
May 2024

For Sites

Staff Meetings
Quarterly trainings
Electronic
Communication



2023-2024

Parent & Family Engagement Policy

Revised 6/29/2023

What is Family Engagement?

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 & Family Engagement Policy

To strengthen student academic achievement, Foothills Regional High School has developed this parent and family engagement policy that describes strategies for meaningful family engagement that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the Title I program. This document describes Foothills commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity of its faculty and staff. This plan also provides family engagement strategies and activities 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 site plan, and in carrying out the district/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. Foothills, a Title I school, will ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of federal law and includes, as a component, a school-parent compact.

Parent and Family Engagement Annual Evaluation

Foothills will conduct an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy and family engagement activities through an annual parent survey and the spring planning meetings.

Beginning September 14 - October 20, 2022, Foothills opened up the surveys for parents and guardians to complete. Historically we would gather this input in February due to the lack of participation in the past due to the number of requested surveys we blended the survey into our Cognia survey. This eliminated a barrier and at the same time incentivized parents and students to complete the survey. The surveys were available and accessible through our website. The link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys were made available to parents during conference time as well. In addition to the annual survey, each Foothills site will use the spring planning meeting to facilitate group discussions around the needs identified by parents. Foothills will use the input from the spring planning meetings 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 policies.

Foothills has established a positive and welcoming culture that has been built through respecting our students and families.

Communications

Foothills will provide parents of participating children the following :

- Timely information about the Title I program through Annual Meetings and website postings
- Flexible number of meetings at each site as well as electronic meetings
- Information related to school and parent programs will be sent in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request. Translations, to the extent practicable, will be provided in a language that parents can understand. Interpreters will be available at meetings as practical and upon request.

Jointly Developed

All parents were invited to a spring planning meeting at each site, as well as electronic meetings/surveys to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy, the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the Comprehensive Support and Improvement School's Plan for the 2023-2024 school year. In 2022, Foothills also created the Family Advisory Council (FAC) which includes family members from all sites as well as parents of special needs students and English learners. The FAC serves as a forum to hear parent voices on how best to support students and to get input and feedback on school improvement plans, activities and how to use federal funds. The sites invited parents in multiple ways. Foothills

intends to continue having the FAC review documents and share their thoughts and concerns for the 2023-2024 school year. Additionally, Foothills used its Local Governance Board to review and provide input on the parent and family engagement policy and CLIP. All parents and community members were invited to provide electronic input on the revised parent and family engagement policy and CLIP and are asked to submit comments to the sites if the plan is not satisfactory to parents.

Upon final revision, the parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the State. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the Foothills website or by submitting written comments to Site Directors. All feedback received by April was included with the policy for this school year.

The parent and family engagement policy will be posted on the Foothills website, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings early in the school year, and made available at each site and the community.

Reservation of Funds

Foothills is required to reserve at least 1% of Title I funds to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. However, Foothills goes above that requirement to support these activities. Foothills regional federal programs will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each site and will develop an adequate family engagement budget that addresses the needs assessment and parent recommendations. Each Foothills site will

host a planning meeting in the Spring for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year. Comments and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the Federal and Special Programs Coordinator to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget.

Strengthening Our School

The Regional Federal and Special Programs Coordinator will provide assistance and support to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Each site will receive notifications and resources from the coordinator to help improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and site visits, the coordinator will hold training sessions at quarterly staff meetings to review family engagement plans and activities with Foothills staff.

Spring planning meetings at each site

Each Foothills site will host a spring planning meeting for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the site improvement plan, the parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Foothills site will send invitations home and email/text parents notifying them about the date and time of the

meeting. Information regarding the spring planning meetings will also be made available on the Foothills website.

Electronic Input – May

All parents and community members will be invited to provide electronic/survey input on the revised district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the upcoming school year. Notices regarding this input opportunity will be emailed to all parents and listed on the website.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual Title I parent survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

**Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit
www.foothillscharter.org to review the meeting documents and
provide input via e-mail.**

½ of Parents Volunteer to Help with Special Projects.



Will you consider lending your time and talents with us this year?

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students are invited to attend three opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, sites, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

Family Advisory Council

Parents from each Foothills site are invited to join the Family Advisory Council (FAC). The FAC will meet quarterly and are forums to hear parent voices on how best to support students, get input and feedback on school improvement plans, and activities as well as how to use federal funds. **If you are interested in joining the Foothills FAC, please reach out to your site directors.**

Annual Title I Meeting

Each Foothills site will host an Annual Title I Meeting in the Fall of 2023. Parents will be invited to learn about our Title I program, including the parent and family engagement policy, schoolwide

plan, school-parent compact, and required parent notifications. Invitations will be emailed, shared via social media and other communication applications, and will be posted on the website.

School-Parent Compact

As part of this plan, Foothills has developed a school-parent compact, which is an agreement between parents, teachers, and students that explains how everyone will work together to make sure all our students reach challenging state academic standards. The compacts are reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from surveys and from parents, students, and teachers during the spring planning meetings. The school-parent compacts are posted on our website, shared with parents at the Annual Title I meetings, shared during conferences, and kept with each receptionist should parents need another copy.

Building Capacity

Foothills Regional High School will build the sites' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members. Foothills will also support the partnership among the Title I program, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities and programs.

For Parents and Families

Foothills will work through its Title I program to provide assistance to parents in understanding:

- state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress,
- information regarding the Title I program,
- the challenging state academic standards,
- local academic assessments,
- required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment,
- the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy and student progress monitoring),
- supporting learning at home,
- helping students with time management.

Dates and locations for workshops and meetings about this information will be posted on the website and shared through electronic alerts such as email and Remind 101.

Foothills will also coordinate pages on the website that will contain resources and materials to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at each site for those families who may have limited internet access, including Spanish versions. Social media will be used to share information and resources with parents.

Foothills has created a Family Advisory Council (FAC) with representatives from each site and has an established Local Governance Board composed of parent representatives and community/business members to provide input on all matters related to family engagement and our Title I, Part A programs.

For School Staff

Foothills will conduct training during the school year for Site Directors and staff 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 and staff of each Foothills site. Foothills will also host training for appropriate staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, site, parent programs, and activities is available to all parents, Foothills sends home and posts online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and provide interpreters at parent events. Information posted on the website will be translated to the extent practicable. Foothills will also utilize school phone call systems, the website, local news media, social media and other school message systems to post information for parents.