

**Athens City Schools**  
**2011-2012 School Year**  
**Parent Involvement Policy**

**Mission:**

The Athens City Schools is recognized as a dynamic, full service, learning organization of students, staff, families, and the Athens Community.

**Goal:**

Parent involvement in Athens City Schools' is key to helping students succeed in the classroom. Students can achieve more when families are engaged in their learning. It can show more positive student behavior, improvement of student attitudes, increased student attendance, higher homework completion, and better test scores.

- Parents are active participants in developing and monitoring our parent involvement plan. Parent representatives will serve on the system Family Engagement Committee and the committees at each individual school.
- The Athens City Schools' Family Engagement committees will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support to schools in planning/implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- Athens City Schools' family engagement committees and system-wide advisory committee work together to build the schools' and parents' capacity for stronger parental involvement.
- Athens City Schools provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as the State's academic content standards, State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, requirements of NCLB Section 1118 (parental involvement), how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve student achievement. The schools encourage all parents to attend a parent-teacher conference to discuss a child's achievement progress.
- The family engagement committees provide materials and trainings to help parents work with their children to improve their achievement, such as literacy, technology, mathematics, and homework help to help foster parental involvement.
- The Athens City Schools educate school staff with the assistance of parents in the value and contributions of parents, and in working with parents-how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, build ties between parents and the school.
- School related information on programs, meetings, events, workshops, and other activities are sent to parents in a format and extent practicable and in a language the parents can understand. Schoolcast is used to provide verbal communication to all families. It can be sent in English and Spanish. The yearly

family engagement survey is used to provide feedback on the school system each year and is provided to parents in English, Spanish, and Japanese.

- Parents may request other items of support for parent involvement activities. The homework help was requested by parents during the 2010-2011 school years so they could become more familiar with how to help their child with homework.
- Athens City Schools coordinates and integrates Title I-A parental involvement strategies with parent involvement strategies under other programs, such as Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Parents as Teachers, Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, State-run preschool programs, and Title III language instructional programs. Parent involvement activities are coordinated with ESL and Special Education programs in Athens City Schools'.
- Parents are actively involved in participating in a yearly family engagement survey which is used to annually evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of the schools served by Title 1-A.
- Family engagement committees meet and discuss the survey results and how they can be used to identify barriers to greater parental participation in parent activities throughout the school system.
- Parents are encouraged to be involved in the activities at their child's school. Monthly system-wide newsletter and calendars are sent home with each student to provide updates and details of upcoming activities throughout the school system.
- Parents provide input in the design, implementation, and evaluation of the Title 1 Part A (parent involvement program). The family engagement committees at the school and system level work together using the yearly survey results to revise the parent involvement plans to reflect current needs for the schools.
- Athens City Schools provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students, and homeless students. The schools' provide information and school reports in a format and language that parents understand.
- The school system promotes parent involvement and community participation in programs for ELL students, Migrant students, and Special Education students.