In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Commerce City Schools receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA’s expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA’s plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Commerce City School System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.

- The school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with federal law.

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESSA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.
The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement/family engagement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

(A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child’s learning
(B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child’s education at school
(C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The Commerce City School System will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESSA:

Commerce City Schools invited parents to attend the community-wide meeting on Friday, March 29, to develop the parent and family engagement policy, Comprehensive Improvement Plan (CLIP), and the School Improvement/Title I plan. The district placed the invitation in the local newspaper so that everyone in the community would receive the notification. The school system also used the feedback received from parents through the Title I parent involvement surveys and the School Climate surveys. Finally, the draft parent and family engagement policy was posted on the website for two weeks for parent comments/feedback. Each building principal received feedback from parents during his/her School Governance Team meetings.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The Commerce City School System will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

During 2019-2020, the school system will employ with local funds a parent involvement coordinator who is bilingual for the school system. The coordinator will work with building leaders to plan parent involvement activities to improve student academic performance. The parent involvement coordinator will also work closely with business partners, parents, and community members with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education to provide professional learning opportunities for our teachers across the district.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The Commerce City School System will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater
participation by parents in activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically
disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any
racial or ethnic minority background). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of
parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with
school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions.
The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement
policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise,
if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

During the spring of 2019-2020 school year, the building level principal will schedule parent meetings
to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement activities. The parent
meetings will be offered at different times to reach as many parents as possible. The parent involvement
coordinator/interpreter will be present for the meetings. During this meeting, school personnel will
identify the needs of the parents and family members to assist with reinforcing academic skills and
engaging with school personnel to support successful parent and family interactions.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The Commerce City School System will involve the parents and family members of children
served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds
reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent
of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

Though our system is not required to set-aside one percent for parent and family engagement, each Title I
school allocates a portion of the Title I budgets for parent and family engagement.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The Commerce City School System will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement
strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate,
with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: [Insert programs, such as:
Head Start or other public preschool programs; transitioning to middle, high, postsecondary
schools, or careers; and other programs] that encourage and support parents in more fully
participating in the education of their children by:

The school system coordinates with other organizations, businesses, and community partners to provide
supports and resources to families. The school system works closely with the Boys and Girls Club to
provide transportation for our students from school to after school programs at the Boys and Girls Club.
During the last two years, the school system partnered with a local bank to provide fall and winter
opportunities for children to attend school during these breaks to address academic deficiencies. The
school system works closely with its post-secondary partners to provide a smooth transition for our high
school students to post-secondary options through the Dual Enrollment Program.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The Commerce City School System will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents’
capacity for strong family engagement by providing materials and training on such topics as
literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy)
to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement.
Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:
The challenging State academic standards
The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
The requirements of Title I, Part A
How to monitor their child’s progress
How to work with educators

The Commerce City School System will provide parent conferences for parents and teachers to meet to support their students’ academic success. Also, an interpreter is available to attend the parent meetings, as necessary. In addition to parent conferences, the parent involvement coordinator will post information/resources for parents on our website and our Facebook page.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The Commerce City School System will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and schools by:

During 2019-2020, Commerce City will continue to explore the implementation of Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) at its Title I school-wide schools with the help of the parent involvement coordinator. The federal programs coordinator, parent involvement coordinator, and building principals will ensure that notifications of meetings, programs, and events for parents will be sent in a language that parents can understand.

BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT

☐ Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training
☐ Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training
☐ Paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions
☐ Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
☐ Maximize family engagement and participation in their children’s education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school
☐ Adopting and implementing model approaches to improving family engagement
☐ Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs
☐ Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities

The federal programs coordinator, parent and family engagement coordinator, and building principals will work together to plan activities/trainings to build capacity for involvement between school and home.

ADOPTION
This LEA parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by meeting minutes, agendas, and sign-in sheets.

This policy was adopted by the Commerce City School System on May 1, 2019 and will be in effect for the period of the 2019-2020 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 1, 2019.