



**Local Educational Agency (LEA)  
Parent and Family Engagement Plan  
*Destinations Career Academy of Georgia (GADCA)*  
2022-23 School Year**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Destinations Career Academy of Georgia receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop, agree upon and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written Parent and Family Engagement Plan that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The Plan establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful Parent and Family Engagement, 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 Destinations Career Academy of Georgia agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116 of ESSA:**

- The School will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in its School 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 will ensure that the required school-level Parent and Family Engagement Plan meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) of ESSA, and each includes 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 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 will submit any parent comments with the Plan when the School submits the Plan to the Georgia Department of Education.

- The School 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

**GADCA will implement the required LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan Components by actively working with parents and students to help provide support in their success at our School. GADCA will provide opportunities for Learning Coaches to meet with the Community Engagement Specialist twice per month and the Community Engagement Specialist will maintain open lines of communication with parents and students via email, social media and the Learning Coach Community platform.**

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia 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:

*Parents will be involved in the development and revisions of GADCA’s Parent and Family Engagement Plan at the beginning of the school year during Parent University Zoom sessions. Parents will also be included throughout the review process for the Student Success Plan and will be able to provide feedback upon the finalization of the Plan itself. Parents will be invited to lend their ideas concerning school improvement plans via Parent University Zoom meetings with the Head of School. Parent Involvement Surveys will be also deployed throughout the school year to collect feedback. The Community Engagement Specialist will also maintain a survey on GADCA’s school website for parents to provide feedback throughout the school year.*

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of the Title I, Part A School 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:

***GADCA will provide support and technical assistance to all school staff, faculty, parents, and students by utilizing the School's technical support team and making all technical support information readily available. Each student and parent will take part in an Orientation course that provides links and information on how to access help and support throughout the school year. The Community Engagement Specialist will host an additional Orientation session and will be available as a liaison when parents and students need assistance.***

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia 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 School. 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 will use the findings of the evaluation about its Parent and Family Engagement Plan to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental engagement, and to revise, if necessary, its Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

***An annual survey will be provided to each parent to assess all the components of the Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The Community Engagements Specialist will design and be responsible for the facilitation of this process of inclusive practices for all parents.***

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A School in decisions about how the one (1) percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than ninety (90) percent of the one (1) percent reserved goes directly to the Title I School.

***GADCA will host a parent involvement/community Town Hall as part of the Community Engagement Specialists' bi-monthly Parent University meetings. In this meeting, the budget for Parent and Family Engagement activities and programs will be provided and input will be gathered annually from parents on how the funds are to be used. A form will be sent out prior to the Town Hall meeting, so that parents can submit questions prior to the session.***

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia School District will coordinate and integrate Parent and Family Engagement strategies to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: [Middle School Transition Plans] that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

*GADCA will participate actively in partnerships with other organizations, schools and colleges to provide additional trainings, project-based learning opportunities, and participate in career readiness activities all around the state. The Community Engagement Specialist and CRE Coordinator will work families to solidify those partnerships and work with agencies to provide opportunities to students and families to participate.*

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia will, with the assistance of its Title I School, 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

*GADCA will provide laptops for students who have actively enrolled and confirmed the need for technology support. The state academic standards will be taught with rigor by our faculty with differentiation based on student need. Parents and students will be notified of the state standardized testing process and components prior to administering the test and parents will also be provided informational sessions with the Community Engagement Specialist to describe other standardized testing that will take place throughout the school year (Interim Assessments, STAR360, Georgia Milestones, Georgia Alternative Assessment, etc.). Parents will be able to reach out to teachers and work with school staff via email, telephone, and Zoom meetings. They will be able to monitor progress with their Learning Coach account within the curriculum platform and grades via the parent login for PowerSchool.*

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The Destinations Career Academy of Georgia 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:

*GADCA will train their staff on Parent Engagement, SEL learning and best practices for communicating with parents. This will be completed by the Parent Engagement Specialist and*

*School Counselor. Communication sent to parents related to school meetings, activities, and programs will be in a format conducive to comprehension (avoiding language or acronyms that may not be familiar to the parents) that also promotes our mission and vision for the school as a whole.*

## **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

***Each discretionary item as selected will be implemented in accordance with the following actions:***

- Involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
  - A survey will be deployed to parents at the beginning, middle and end of the school year to gather feedback regarding effective training for GADCA’s teaching and leadership staff.
- Providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonable available sources of funding for that training.
  - Literacy training and resources will be conducted during Parent University sessions.
- 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.
  - Parent engagement activities will be conducted bi-weekly through an online platform.
- Training parents to enhance the engagement of other parents
  - Parents will be provided opportunities to engage during bi-weekly Parent University sessions where various activities will be facilitated to promote collaboration and relationship building.

- 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
  - All parent engagement and participation opportunities will be conducted through an online platform.
- Adopting and implementing model approaches in improving family engagement
  - Parents will be involved with the improvement of GADCA’s family engagement policy through surveys, bi-weekly attendance to Parent University events, social media connections, online advice videos from the Community Engagement Specialist and Teaching staff.
- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Parent A programs
  - The Community Engagement Specialist will guide the process for parents to develop a parent advisory council that will work to provide feedback for GADCA’s family engagement initiative efforts.
- Developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in family engagement activities.
  - The Community Engagement Specialist will work with community partners to enhance the overall experience and involvement of parents.

**ADOPTION**

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed on with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by Parent Meeting Calendar Invitation.

This Plan was adopted by the Destinations Career Academy of Georgia on July 26, 2022 and will be in effect for the period of the 2022-2023 school year. The School will distribute this Plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before August 15, 2022.

Dr. Darice Irby  
Dr. Darice Irby, Head of School

July 26, 2022  
(Date)