



**Dames Ferry Elementary  
Parent Involvement Policy  
2016-2017**

**PART I: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**

***(2016-2017) School Parent Involvement Policy***  
**Revised: (05/25/2016)**

**School:**       Dames Ferry Elementary       **District/LEA:**       Jones County      

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, each school that receives Title I, Part A funds must develop jointly with, agree on with, and distribute to, parents of participating children a written parental involvement policy, agreed on by such parents, that contains information required by section 1118 (b)(1) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (school parental involvement policy). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parental involvement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental involvement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

The school will adhere to the following as required by law:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parental involvement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under section 1114(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA).
- Update the school parent involvement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school and distribute it to the parents of participating children and make the parental involvement plan available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.



- If the schoolwide program plan under section 1114 (b)(2) of the ESEA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

*Parental involvement means the participation of parents 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 at school;*
- (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 1118 of the ESEA.*

## **PART II. DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs including involvement in the decisions regarding how funds for parental involvement will be used.

In accordance to policy, Dames Ferry Elementary will convene meetings in the Spring, to revise our Parent Involvement Policy, Compacts, and Schoolwide Plan. Dames Ferry Elementary will solicit feedback and suggestions, from our stakeholders, for revision on each of the plans. Stakeholders will also be invited to review and give feedback on how Parent Involvement funds will be spent. All suggestions and comments from surveys and meetings regarding Title I programs will be sent to the district office. Suggestions will be used if deemed applicable to the improvement of the program. Final policies and plans under Title I will be distributed to all parents at Dames Ferry Elementary. Copies may also be obtained in the school’s office and on the school’s website. For parents whose native language is not English, translated copies of the Parent Involvement Policy, Compact, and Schoolwide plan will be made available, upon request.



2. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend, to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements and the school parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

Dames Ferry Elementary will hold an annual Fall Title I meeting, to be held at varying times, to accommodate as many parents' schedules as possible. All parents will be informed through multiple means of communication, such as email, newsletters, and flyers. This annual meeting will explain the Title I program and its requirements to parents, they will also be informed of their right to be involved in this program and in the decision of how parental involvement funds are spent. Specifically, DFE's schoolwide plan will be discussed, as well as our parent involvement policy and school-parent compact. Parents will garner a better understanding of Title I and what their roles and rights are under this program through this annual meeting. DFE will also advertise this information through our website and in our office for those parents that are unable to attend the meetings.

3. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will take the following actions to offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

Dames Ferry Elementary will hold meetings at varying times to accommodate as many parents' schedules as possible. Survey information will be used to ascertain times that best meet our parents' needs. If survey results deem childcare or other services are needed, then every effort will be made to meet these needs for all meetings and events.

4. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:
  - Timely information about the Title I programs;
  - Description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet;
  - Opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible;



All information about the Title I program and events will be sent to parents via flyers, emails and newsletters, and will also be advertised and available through the school's website and in the office. Title I events will include, but are not limited to:

- parent workshops based on needs assessment surveys
  - open house and orientations, where grade levels will address curriculum, academic assessment and how it will be used to measure student progress and proficiency levels students are expected to meet
  - frequent progress reports and parent conferences will allow parents to stay informed in the decisions relating to the education of their child and give opportunities for them to participate in decisions, along with the teacher and respond to suggestions
  - DFE and school staff will respond to all requests by parents and give parents the opportunity to meet and discuss plans and decisions relating to the education of their children. The school and staff will respond promptly to any and all suggestions.
5. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students 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 children achieve the state's high standards.

Dames Ferry Elementary has developed and annually revises their school compact with the support and input of parents and school staff. A developed compact is used to address the school's, parents', and students' responsibilities for increasing student achievement. The compacts are kept on file and used throughout the year, as a visual reminder of Dames Ferry Elementary's approach to the partnership in education between school, students, and parents.

6. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:
- A. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph –



- the state's academic content standards;
- the state's student academic achievement standards;
- the state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments;
- the requirements of Part A;
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to work with educators

Dames Ferry Elementary will provide, through grade level open houses and orientations, information about the state's academic content standards, student academic achievement standards, and the state's local academic assessments. These meetings will also address how parents can best monitor their child's progress and effectively communicate with their child's teachers. The Parent Involvement Coordinator, with the help of school staff, will hold parent meetings and workshops that address Title I and the requirements of Part A, along with workshops that are based on needs assessment surveys.

- B. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will provide materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by;

Hosting parent workshops on:

- Computer programs and websites at home to foster learning
- Promoting literacy at home
- Organization of schoolwork and homework
- Math Games in everyday situations

DFE will also:

- Maintain a Parent Resource Center that has games and literature about how parents can work with their child and school to improve their child's achievement
- Provide parents with any additional support that is requested, such as computer training

- C. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will provide training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school, by:

The teachers and staff at Dames Ferry Elementary are committed to working with parents in the realization that both of their roles, as equal partners, are paramount in the academic success of the child. The faculty and staff of DFE will attend workshops that highlight



the value and utility of contributions of parents, and learn ways to further develop and coordinate parent involvement within their classroom and school. Frequent communication between parents and teachers occurs through: parent-teacher conferences, phone calls, newsletters, emails, and review of compacts.

- D. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:

Dames Ferry Elementary will hold open houses and host school visits for PreK students and parents transitioning into Kindergarten. When feasible and appropriate, an invitation to events and programs offered at DFE will be extended to the parents of PreK students that will attend DFE.

- E. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:

Dames Ferry Elementary will provide information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, to the requesting parents. This information will be provided to parents with limited English proficiency, parents of migratory children, and parents with disabilities in a format, and to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand. Translators will be provided at meetings and events, upon request.

- F. **Dames Ferry Elementary** will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.