C.J. HICKS ELEMENTARY
TITLE I PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

UNDER
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1965
PRESENTED BY
ROCKDALE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
OFFICE OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS
The Every Student Succeeds Act, commonly referred to as ESSA, was signed into law in 2015. ESSA, which earned bipartisan approval in Congress, freed states from their No Child Left Behind (NCLB) waiver agreements and entrusted them with the responsibility to develop their own state plans to support education.

ESSA significantly scaled back the authority of the U.S. Secretary of Education and U.S. Department of Education. That said, though ESSA gave states additional authority and flexibility over their education systems, wholesale flexibility was not granted. The requirements of the law vary in specificity from issue to issue, with significant flexibility granted in some areas while in others (such as testing), many of the federal requirements introduced in No Child Left Behind remain.
In creating Georgia’s state plan, the state sought out maximum flexibility while creating a cohesive and aligned plan that is responsive to the feedback received from educators, parents, students, business/industry representatives, and community members. The resulting plan strongly supports the State’s vision of offering a holistic education to each and every child in the state.

The Every Student Succeeds Act gave Georgia an opportunity to reflect on and refine previous education reforms and engage Georgians in a meaningful way to chart out the future of education in our state – together.

At the center of the plan is a common framework of improvement that places the “Whole Child” at the center, thereby focusing and organizing the work of the Department and engaging partners in the improvement process. Indicators included in our accountability system go beyond just test scores, allowing us to capture a more holistic view of district and school performance. A more personalized approach is embodied in the state’s long-term educational goals and accountability system, providing ambitious but attainable targets for groups of students, while rewarding schools that move students academically from one level to the next.
THE EVERY STUDENT SUCCEEDS ACT

This plan supports the alignment of tools, resources, initiatives, programs, and efforts so they work in a more effective and efficient way to ultimately impact the classroom. The cornerstones of this plan are strengthening the teaching profession and building the capacity of leaders through quality feedback, support, mentorship, and professional learning.

Thank you for being a part of the development of Georgia’s state plan.

Richard Woods
Georgia’s School Superintendent
TITLE I – PROGRAM OVERVIEW

• Title I Part A is a federal program providing supplemental resources to Local Educational Agencies (school districts), assisting students in poverty to meet challenging state academic standards. In order to access these funds, schools must have a poverty threshold of at least 40% based on free and reduced lunch application. Schools that rank into Title I deliver supplemental services through a Targeted Assistance Program (TAP) or Schoolwide Program (SWP) model.

• Supplemental funds are over and above the general revenue funds the districts and schools receive to support the base programs. They are funds which are granted to districts and to schools for specific program purposes and must be used only to support and enhance the district’s and school’s regular program.
C.J. HICKS ELEMENTARY TITLE I PROGRAM

• C.J. Hicks Elementary School is a Schoolwide Title I program.

• Our FY23 Title I Plan includes:
  • Increasing the percentage of students scoring in the Proficient/Distinguished performance level on the ELA, Math, and Science EOG assessments for students in grades 3-5
  • Increasing parent and family engagement

• C.J. Elementary School’s Title I budget for FY23 is $241,670, and includes the following expenditures:
  • Instructional support from paraprofessionals and instructional coaches
  • Professional learning for teachers
  • Supplemental workbooks for students
  • Summer Bridge books for students
  • Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) / School Improvement Plan (SIP) Planning

• C.J. Hicks Elementary School’s curriculum used:
  • At C.J. Hicks Elementary, we use the Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSEs) found at www.ga.doe.org.
C.J. Hicks Elementary’s assessments

- The following assessments are used to measure student progress, and students are expected to meet or exceed to show proficiency:
  - ACCESS for our EL Students
  - Georgia Milestones Assessments (Grades 3-5)
  - District Common Unit Assessments
  - STAR EL, Reading, and Math
  - Acadience
  - HMH Growth Measure

- Parents should contact their child’s teacher for information on how their child performs in each of these assessments. They may also access previous test performance, standards, and attendance using our Infinite Campus Parent Portal.

- To access the State’s grade report for C.J. Hicks Elementary, visit: Georgia School Grades (ga.gov)
The purpose of Parent and Family Engagement under Title I Part A is to promote active involvement among LEA’s, administrators, school staff, parents, parental involvement coordinators, community leaders, and other stakeholders working to improve student achievement and promote academic success.

1% of Title I Part A funds are allocated for parent involvement. Parents are given the opportunity through parent meetings and surveys to be involved in the decisions regarding the use of these funds. Please contact Mrs. Dawn Smith for more information.

The school, parents and community stakeholders must jointly develop, revise and agree upon a Parent and Family Engagement Plan that shall describe the means for carrying out Title I Part A requirements. The C.J. Hicks Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Plan for FY23 has been updated with parent input and will be made available on our school website under the “Parents” tab.

The LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy is available on the RCPS website.
PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

• The School-Parent Compact is a written commitment indicating how parents, teachers, principals and students agree to share responsibility for improved student achievement. C.J. Hicks Elementary School’s School-Parent Compact will be sent home for signatures and review.

• C.J. Hicks Elementary School places a strong focus on affording parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children and provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children’s achievement. The following family engagement events and volunteer opportunities will be held this school year:
  • Parent Pride Workshops
  • Literacy Night
  • Math Night
  • Technology Night
  • GMAS Testing Parent Information Meeting

• C.J. Hicks Elementary School’s Parent Liaison is Mrs. Dawn Smith.
In compliance with the requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act, Rockdale County Public Schools would like to inform you that you may request information about the professional qualifications of your student’s teacher(s) and /or paraprofessional(s). The following information may be requested:

Whether the student’s teacher:

- has met state qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
- is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications or licensing criteria have been waived;
- is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher; and
- whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

If you wish to request information concerning your child’s teacher’s qualification, please contact our Principal, Dr. Erica Wakefall.
C.J. HICKS CONTACT LIST

The following school contacts may be reached by phone at 770-483-4410 or by email:

- Principal: Dr. Erica Wakefall ewakefall@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Assistant Principal: Dr. Ailia Gilbert agilbert2@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Assistant Principal: Heidi Coachman hcoachman@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Counselor: Janelle Brooks jbrooks@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Counselor: Michelle Andrews mandrews@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- RTI Coordinator: Dr. Tresseler Byrd tbyrd@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Lead Teacher for Compliance: Robin Vaughn-Dixon rvaughndixon@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Social Worker: Tonia Courtney tcourtney23@rockdale.k12.ga.us
- Parent Liaison: Dawn Smith dawnsmith@rockdale.k12.ga.us
HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH
MCKINNEY-VENTO EDUCATION FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

• Federal law - Title X, Part C

• Requirement: State educational agencies must ensure that each homeless child and youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, as other children and youth.

• Each school district must set aside Title I funds for homeless children and youth (school supplies, graduation assistance, etc.)
DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

• Individuals who lack a *fixed, regular, and adequate* nighttime residence

• Sharing housing due to loss of housing

• Living in motels/hotels, trailer parks or camping grounds (trailers without fixed foundations)

• Living in shelters

• Other
LIAISON FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

Contact: Kathia Brown  770-761-1448

Community and Student Support Dept.– 960 Pine Street, Conyers

▪ Qualifies students under the McKinney Vento Act
▪ Arranges transportation
▪ Arranges free meals
▪ Connects families with resources

You can also contact our school counselor or school social worker.
RIGHTS OF HOMELESS CHILDREN & YOUTH

• Right to enroll in school immediately
• Right to receive transportation to the school of origin while homeless (if it is in the best interest of the child)
• Right to remain in the school of origin until the end of the academic year
• Right to receive free meals
• Dispute resolution process
THANK YOU!

If you have additional questions, please contact our Parent Liaison, Mrs. Dawn Smith, by phone at 770-483-4410 or email at dawnsmith@rockdale.k12.ga.us for more information.