



CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Community Outreach Strengthens Family Engagement

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Demographics

Snapshot of Clarke County School District:

- **19 Title I schools in FY10; 21 (all) Title I schools in FY11**
- **Lowest poverty school 51% based on Oct. 2009**
- **Highest poverty school 98% based on Oct. 2009**
- **Economically Disadvantaged: 74%**
- **Students with Disabilities: 13%**
- **English Language Learners: 12%**

District Family Engagement Policy Components

1. **Student/Family Learning**
2. **Communication**
3. **Parenting**
4. **Positive & Equitable School Culture**
5. **Parent Decision Making & Advocacy**
6. **Collaborating with the Community**
7. **Equity in Human Resources**



CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

Providing parents with tools to promote student achievement.

- **Over 300 low-income families have received surplus wireless laptop computers for a nominal charge.**
- **Training in Open Office, e-mail, Parent Portal, and academic websites is required.**
- **Free IT Athens, a non-profit volunteer-driven community organization, provides on-going tech support and training.**



Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

The Nellie B Community

- **180 apartments under Athens Housing Authority management**
- **Will have Free wireless internet**
- **Every school district family will own a surplus CCSD computer with six training sessions**



The plan is to provide computer technology and internet access to low-income families throughout Clarke County.

Graduation Day



Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

Supporting parents who wish to participate in adult education classes in the schools...

**Gaines Elementary with volunteer Gaines teachers
Stroud Elementary with UGA volunteers**

...in the community...

**Bethel Homes
Mt. Olive Seventh-Day Adventist**



...By providing links to the adult literacy community

Component 1: Student/Family Learning

Education is student and parent centered and inclusive of the voices and experiences of our students/families.

Collaborating with faith-based and community organizations to establish computer labs that families can access at various times and locations



Component 2: Communication

Communication between home and school, is open, frequent, meaningful, and conducted in multiple ways.

Schools holding community meetings in neighborhoods

- **Held in public housing neighborhoods and community centers**
- **Reaches families who may not attend school events**
- **Provides opportunities to meet school administrators**
- **Reviews school policies and programs**
 - **Student data**
 - **After school programs**
 - **Attendance**
 - **Behavioral interventions**



Component 2: Communication

Communication between home and school, is open, frequent, meaningful, and conducted in multiple ways.

- **Home visits**
- **Flyers and school newsletters**
- **Campus Messenger**
- **Parent Portal**
- **Channel 16**



Component 3: Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

Annual Workshop for Families with Special Education Students

- **A variety of informational workshops for parents**
 - **Behavioral Supports**
 - **Education, Training, and Career Development**
 - **School-based programs**
 - **Transition and Life Planning**
 - **Legal Information**
 - **Medicaid**
 - **Community Supports**
- **Includes both instructional staff and community organizations**



Component 3: Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

Annual Community Development Fair

- **Informational booths**
- **Children's activity room**
- **Summer camp registration**
- **Live entertainment**
- **Medical screenings**
- **Free haircuts and manicures**
- **Food pantry**
- **Free clothes closet**
- **Door prizes**



Component 3: Parenting

Parenting skills are promoted and supported.

Co-sponsored Annual Cyber Safety Workshop



- **FBI**
- **AT&T**
- **Geek Squad**
- **Prevent Child Abuse Athens**

Component 4: Positive & Equitable School Culture

School cultures are open, helpful and inviting.

The school culture promotes values, attitudes, and practices that focus and support our diverse community.

- **Communicating bilingually**
- **Hiring bi-lingual Family Engagement Specialists and front office staff**
- **Celebrating with families in neighborhood events**



Component 5: Parent Decision Making/Advocacy Parents are encouraged to provide advice, make recommendations and provide assistance in school decisions and advocacy that affect children and families.

Providing parents training on becoming effective advocates for themselves and their children



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

The school addresses student, family, and community needs through appropriate services & cross-institutional partnerships

Supporting the physical needs of families

- **Shelter: Locating programs to assist in obtaining affordable housing**
- **Food Pantry**
- **Clothing vouchers**
- **Health needs:**
 - **Dental (Give A Child A Smile)**
 - **Medical (Mercy Health Center)**
 - **Emotional (Camp MAGIK)**



Component 6: Collaborating with the Community

The school addresses student, family, and community needs through appropriate services & cross-institutional partnerships.

For instance, Stroud Elementary Block Party Collaborators included

- **Department of Labor**
- **Ladies of Color**
- **Rainbow Push Coalition**
- **Community Connections**
- **DFCS**
- **Right From the Start Medicaid**
- **Friends for Life Mentoring**
- **Council on Aging**
- **U.S. Census Bureau**



Community Partners



Shopping with a Bulldawg



Fundraising for GED scholarships



Athens Tutorial Program



Partners in Education



Seeing Is Believing Tour



Component 7: Equity in Human Resources

Our schools value the diversity of our families by utilizing the life experiences and community memberships of children, family and staff to support individual student growth and overall school goals.

Through collaboration with HandsOn Northeast Georgia and UGA, hundreds of bilingual interpreters are recruited and trained to facilitate Parent-Teacher Conferences and other school and community events.

