

## A Unique Learning Community

All AASD families are part of our special learning community. We offer a rich bilingual education in both American Sign Language and English where experienced Deaf professionals, teachers of the deaf, coaches and administrators serve as active daily role and language models for our students.

**Family engagement, increased home use of American Sign Language, regular reading support, and intentional life skills training at home, are central to the achievement of our mission.**

We believe family – school partnership is essential to every child’s success. Let us know how we can support you this year.

## Contact Us

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# Family and Parent Engagement Policy 2018-2019

Revised July 12, 2018



## ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

John A. Serrano, Superintendent

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*Our mission at Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is to provide a language –rich, student-centered learning environment through American Sign Language and English for the purpose of empowering our students to live independent, fulfilling lives and to become productive, contributing members of society.*

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# A Very Special School



## 2018-2019 State School District Goals

All students will be reading on grade level by third grade.

All students will graduate college and/or career ready.

## 2018-2019 School Goals

Through the consistent use of instructional best practices, students will increase reading and math proficiency from the previous year as measured by required statewide assessments, Georgia Milestones and meet the targeted MAP benchmarks.

Increase the professional capacity of instructional/support staff and administrators through professional learning opportunities and coaching related to instructional practices as evidenced by student achievement.



# Mark Your Calendars

Annual events for families are listed here. Watch for more details, and additional gatherings hosted by specific department will be added throughout the school year.

## School-wide Events

Registration Day and Family Cookout 7/28/18

Annual Title 1 Meeting 7/28/18

Parent Teacher Conference Day 9/26/18

Fall Festival 11/3/18

Family Internet Safety Training, Fall 2018

Spring Performance, March 2019

Summer Camp Fair 3/23/19

Annual Year-End Policy Review, April 2019

Awards Days, May 2019

Graduation 5/19/18

## Elementary Events

Bring Your Parents to School Day 9/25/18

## Middle School Events

Middle School 101 - Registration Day 7/28/18, 11:00AM

## High School and CTAE Events

High School 101 - Registration Day 7/28/18 12:00PM

## American Sign Language Classes for Families

Saturdays: (8-week sessions)

Fall: 9/8/18 through 10/27/18

Spring: 1/26/19 through 3/23/19

# Student Success Plan

## What is it?

It is a plan that outlines opportunities to for families to support student learning. AASD values the contributions and involvement of family members and believes that meaningful partnerships improve achievement.

## How is it revised?

At the Spring 2018 Policy Review meetings input on the School-wide Plan, our School-Parent Compact and our Family Engagement Policy was gathered and considered. Surveys and feedback from School Council meetings contributed to this revision.

## Who is it for?

All AASD families are encouraged and invited to participate fully in the opportunities described in this plan. AASD will provide full access for families with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

## Where is it available?

It is distributed the to all students.

Copies are available in our Family Resource Room and on our website, [www.aasdweb.com](http://www.aasdweb.com).

# Overview of Programs

## Family Resource Room

Just off the front lobby at AASD is our beautiful new Family Resource Room offering space to relax, work, meet with staff and/or find resources families may need.

## Parent and Family Engagement Standards

AASD has adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

## What is Title 1?

Atlanta Area School for the Deaf is a Title I school as identified by the, **Every Student Succeeds Act** of 2015 (ESSA).

Title I supports state and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards to reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students.

Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with all parents, a written Family and Parent Engagement Policy.

# Family and Parent Engagement

The Atlanta Area School for the Deaf believes that parental and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular two-way, meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities to ensure that:

Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning at home.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.

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.

## School – Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, AASD and our families will develop a **School-Parent Compact**, which is an agreement that specifically explains *how* parents and teachers will work together to ensure students reach grade-level standards. Compacts are updated annually based on feedback from parents, students and teachers during our Town Hall Meeting/Policy Review, Spring School Council Meeting, parent surveys and all Regional Parent Meetings.

Families receive revised Compacts each year, which are reviewed at parent teacher meetings in the fall.

## Ways AASD partners with families by:

- Providing coaching opportunities and regular trainings for staff, to build meaningful, two-way communication with families linked to learning. Staff will also share best practices during monthly staff meetings.
- Providing academic support materials, in language families can understand, to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement. These include digital and printed materials that support language, reading, positive and life-skills learning.
- Sharing information in English and Spanish with all families and the community in a timely fashion, regarding school events and activities, through our website, email, phone calls, social media, and flyers.
- Cooperate with Babies Can't Wait (BCW) and Georgia PINES by offering toddler and pre-school programs including family engagement activities to help prepare parents and children for kindergarten and improve school transition.
- Work with all parents to develop a working knowledge of American Sign Language offering regular classes, on-line resources, and support materials.
- Build capacity in families regarding each child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), through pre-IEP phone sessions.
- Engage families of high school students in transition planning leading through high school into post-secondary education and training.