

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 participation in all IEPs, 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 2019-2020

Revised June 29, 2019



ATLANTA AREA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

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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.

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 Annual Policy Review, Spring School Council Meeting, and family school climate surveys.

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

AASD partners with families by:

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

Student Success Plan

What is it?

Student success has its foundation in AASD's 2019-2020 theme "**Together We Can**". The plan outlines opportunities for families to support student learning and social-emotional health. AASD values the contributions and involvement of family members and believes meaningful partnerships with families are key.

How is it revised?

At the Spring 2019 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 also 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 to all students. Copies are available in our Family Resource Room and on our website, www.aasdweb.com.

Overview of Programs

Family Resource Room

Just off the front lobby at AASD is our 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:

- Welcoming All Families
- Communicating Effectively
- Supporting Student Success
- Speaking Up for Every Child
- Sharing Power
- 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.

A Very Special School

2019-2020 State School District Goals

Increase the percent of students identified as proficient in ELA and Math on Georgia Milestones by 10% as evidenced by scores of 5th grade, 8th grade and all Math/ELA EOC high school students.

2019-2020 School Goals

Through the use of evidence based instructional strategies, bilingual strategies and appropriate resources, students will meet individual MAP benchmark targets, correlated to Georgia Milestones, in ELA and Mathematics.

Increase CTAE and STEAM opportunities for students to become life ready after graduation.

Become culturally competent and responsive through professional learning and support.



Mark Your Calendars

Additional events by will be added throughout the school year.

School-wide Events

Registration Day, and Annual Title 1 Meeting, 8/3/19
Parent-Teacher Conferences, September 2019
Family Academic Support Workshop, October 2019
Alumni Panel October 2019
Fall Festival 11/2/19
Spring Performance, March 2020
Summer Camp Fair 3/7/20
Annual Year-End Policy Review 3/7/20
Awards Days, May 2020
High School Graduation, May 16, 2020

School Council Meetings

Second Tuesday of September, November, January, March and May 4:00 – 5:30PM

Elementary Events

Bring Your Parents to School Day 9/25/19

Middle School Events

Middle School 101 – 8/3/19
Science Fair, May 2020

High School and CTAE Events

High School 101 – 8/3/19
Alumni Panel, October 2019

American Sign Language Classes for Families

Saturdays: (8-week sessions)
Fall: 9/7/19 through 11/2/19
Spring: 1/11/20 through 3/7/20