



The Parent Post

Facilitating Family School Partnerships

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Welcome to The Parent Post! This newsletter is published four times per year for students and families of the Douglas County School System. For more information, please visit dcssga.org or contact Patti Sullivan at (770) 651-2118 or email patti.sullivan@dcssga.org

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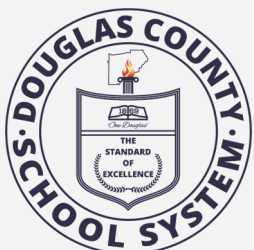
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Congratulations, We Are Engaged!

By Robbie Colson-Ramsey, Family Engagement Contact, Chestnut Log Middle School

Parent engagement in your child's school can significantly impact their academic growth and overall educational experience. Students whose parents stay involved in school have better attendance and behavior, get better grades, demonstrate better social skills, and adapt to school. Parental involvement also more securely sets these students up to develop a lifelong love of learning, which researchers say is critical to long-term success. Research consistently shows substantial benefits when parents are actively engaged in their child's education. Here are some ways parental involvement positively impacts their child's educational experience:

Attendance: When a child's parent is actively involved in their child's school, they know the importance of a child being in class every day and are focused on that child being in class every day; national studies show that a middle schooler who misses two or fewer days each year has a 93% chance of starting high school on track to graduate versus 66% for a child who misses ten or more days. When parents value education and show up for school meetings and events, it sends a clear message to the child about the importance of education.

Communication: When parents are actively involved in their child's school, they tend to have better relationships with the teachers, staff, and administration. The open line of communication allows teachers and parents to effectively communicate with each other about the student's progress before issues become too overwhelming.

Community Building: Parent engagement often extends beyond individual students. It can help build a sense of community within the school, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment that believes all students. Students excel to unimagined heights because their school and home community support them.

Support at Home: Engaged parents can create a conducive learning environment at home because parents understand the goals of the school and teacher. Support at home is not buying the most expensive learning devices but making sure your students have a good night's sleep and are ready for a new day of learning. These practices encourage a love for learning supported by family, community, and school.

Behavioral Improvements: Parents who are heavily engaged in their students' schools often have students who do not have issues following the school's rules. Knowing that parents are involved can encourage children to behave better and follow school rules.

Social and Emotional Development: We must remember that parent engagement is not just about academics. It can also support a child's social and emotional development. Engaged parents can help their children navigate social challenges and build resilience. It's essential that parent



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engagement can take various forms and should be flexible to accommodate the needs and preferences of both parents and schools. Not all parents can be equally involved due to work or other commitments, and schools should strive to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all parents. Schools must understand that they must provide resources and support to help parents become more engaged in their child's education.

2024-2025 MAGNET APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE

The magnet programs at all 5 Douglas County High Schools have held or are holding information sessions about their programs. You may apply to more than one magnet program, so feel free to attend as many information sessions as you wish. **The deadline to apply is Monday, December 11, 2023.** For more information and for each high school's application link, please click below.

[Learn About 2024-2025 Magnet Applications](#)

McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program

By Jill Smith, Homeless Liaison, Foster Care Point of Contact

The McKinney-Vento Education for Homeless Children and Youth program is designed to address the problems that homeless children and youth have faced in enrolling, attending, and succeeding in school.

The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act legislation describes a homeless student as one who "lacks a fixed, regular and adequate residence." If a family lives in any of the following situations:

- ◆ Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (example: evicted from home, etc.).
- ◆ In a motel, hotel, campground or similar setting due to lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- ◆ In an emergency or transitional shelter.
- ◆ Have a primary nighttime residence that is not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for humans.
- ◆ In a car, park, public space, abandoned building, substandard housing, bus or train station, or a similar setting.

In addition, a student who is not in the physical custody of a parent/guardian and is living in one of the situations listed above may be considered an unaccompanied homeless youth.

Eligible children/youth have the right to:

- ◆ Immediate enrollment in school, even if lacking documents normally required for enrollment.
- ◆ Choose between the local school where they are living or the school last attended before becoming homeless, when feasible.
- ◆ Receive transportation to school, if requested by the parent or youth.
- ◆ Attend school and participate in school programs with children who are not homeless.
- ◆ Receive all the school services available to other students.

What can you do to help children and youth you think may be homeless?

If you suspect that a child or youth does not have adequate housing, please refer the parent or youth to our district homeless liaison, Jill Smith. Jill is located at the DCSS Central Office and has the resources to assist our students experiencing homelessness in many areas. Please contact Jill at jill.smith@dcssga.org or 770-651-2098

Resources for Parents of English Learners!

The Douglas County School System has posted new resources for parents of English Learners on our website. Our goal is to provide effective outreach to parents of our English Learners and to assist them in being involved in their child's education. Please visit our website [here](#) or scan this QR code to access the website with the resources listed.



Involved Parents Help Students Succeed

By Julie King, ESOL Teacher, Annette Winn Elementary School

The school year is flying by, and November is already here! November is Parent Engagement Month. Parent Engagement is a very important component of the U.S. school system. Establishing expectations for how schools and families should collaborate to support learning can make a huge impact on student success.

There are many ways that you, as a parent (or grandparent, or guardian), can help your student to be more successful in school. One important way for you to help your English Learner is to communicate with the teachers. Whether you use email, Remind, or write a note and send it with your child, the teacher will be happy to hear from you! Make sure you also read newsletters and messages from the school or the teacher. Don't be afraid to ask questions. The teachers want to help you and your English Learner. Teachers will work to find interpreters if this is necessary for communication, so please do not hesitate to ask for help. Communication with your child is also very important. Ask questions about school. Ask your English Learner what he or she enjoys learning about at school. Talk about school in a positive way. We want our English Learners to know that school is a wonderful place to learn new things!

Whether your English Learner is in Elementary, Middle, or High School, he or she will benefit from the following suggestions:

- * Getting plenty of rest is important. Make sure your child is getting 8 hours of sleep every night.
- * Eating a good breakfast at home or at school will help your child focus.
- * Attendance and arriving on time are keys to success. Try to schedule appointments after school, and save vacations for school holidays. Make sure your child arrives for school on time because late students are missing instruction.
- * Stay informed about your child's homework. Look at your child's agenda or folder to see what homework has been assigned. Teachers assign homework to help students practice what has been taught in class. Talk about the homework with your child, and be available to help. English Learners in kindergarten and first grade will need the most help. Older students may just need you to remind them about homework. If your child is struggling with homework, contact a teacher for assistance.
- * Read to your child, and encourage your child to read. Ask questions about the story. Ask older students to tell you about the books they are reading. Reading aloud in your native language can actually improve your child's English reading skills, so do not hesitate to do this if possible.
- * Visit [Colorin Colorado](http://colorincolorado.org/school-success) (colorincolorado.org/school-success) for more tips.

Let's work together to help our English Learners to be Multilingual Superheroes!

What is copyright piracy? The illegal activity of copying and selling a book, film, music, etc. for which you do not own the copyright or the act of illegally reproducing or disseminating copyrighted material, such as computer programs, books, music, and films.

Consequences for violations of the copyright laws. There can be civil penalties or criminal penalties for copyright piracy. There is also the risk of damaging professional and personal reputations.

For more information about the harms of copyright piracy, please click [HERE](#).



Copyright.gov

U P C O M I N G T I T L E I W O R K S H O P S

Parents of children being served with Title I funds may attend any workshop, regardless of location. Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below.

Annette Winn Elementary School Parent Resource Center
3536 Bankhead Highway, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-3100 awes.dcssga.org

STEAM Night - Part 1 (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Come join us for a night of removing limitations and replacing them with wonder, critique, inquiry, and innovation. Parents and students will participate in a collaborative clay project to create ceramic masterpieces. Part 2 of this activity will take place in January.

Burnett Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8277 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3500 bues.dcssga.org

Writing Expo (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 5:30 PM

At our Writing Expo, families will visit their child's classroom to view the writing of their child, gain insight on how to help their child at home, and celebrate the progress that has been made.

Chestnut Log Middle School Parent Resource Center
2544 Pope Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-5100 clms.dcssga.org

The Importance of Math and Science (VIRTUAL)

Tuesday, November 30, 2023 at 6:30 PM

We will discuss how important the skills of math and science are to our students in their academic life and their home life. We will also talk about the math and science standards and preparing for standardized tests.

Eastside Elementary School Parent Resource Center
8266 Connally Drive, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-3800 eses.dcssga.org

Reading Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Parents will gain valuable information about strategies to help your child learn to love reading.

Lithia Springs Elementary School Parent Resource Center
6946 Florence Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4100 lses.dcssga.org

Math Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Come join LSES for our Math Night! There will be fun games and activities for parents to participate in with their students. We will also review the new Math Standards.

North Douglas Elementary School Parent Resource Center
1630 Dorris Road, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-4800 ndes.dcssga.org

Family Engagement Month Celebration (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023

Our North Douglas ES dads will welcome our students to school as they open doors during the morning car rider line. We will also have a special Open House at the Parent Resource Center with refreshments. Parents can visit to check out resources and supplies. Later in the week, parents of the News Crew will join their students during the morning announcements.

Stewart Middle School Parent Resource Center
8138 Malone Street, Douglasville, GA 30134
(770) 651-5400 sms.dcssga.org

Pastries with the Principal (IN-PERSON)

Monday, November 13, 2023 at 9:30 AM

Join Dr. Jefferson for a QA session concerning grading practices, school safety, discipline and incentive plans for our middle school students.

Sweetwater Elementary School Parent Resource Center
2505 East County Line Road, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-4600 swes.dcssga.org

Literacy and STEM Night (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Our Literacy and STEM night is a fun-filled family night. We will have a truck from Learning Power with interactive activities on it. Each grade level will also have a literacy activity and some form of STEM activity.

Turner Middle School Parent Resource Center
7101 Turner Drive, Lithia Springs, GA 30122
(770) 651-5500 tms.dcssga.org

How do I help my child with organization and work/homework? (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, November 2, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Join our workshop for parents and discover strategies can help your child excel in organization and homework, fostering their academic success. This workshop will provide parents with practical insights and tools to support their children's academic journey using parent and student-friendly strategies. Participants will learn effective methods for promoting organization, time management, and study skills, enabling their children to excel in school. The workshop will cover topics such as setting up a conducive study environment at home, teaching effective note-taking and organization techniques, and fostering a growth mindset to enhance their child's motivation and academic achievement. Come and join us to empower your child with the skills they need to thrive in their educational pursuits.



Visit YOUR Title I Parent Resource Center Today!

U P C O M I N G P A R E N T W O R K S H O P S

Please check the schedule to determine if parent workshops will be virtual or in-person. For additional information, please contact your child's school at the listed phone numbers below or visit the school website.

Arbor Station Elementary School

9999 Parkway South, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3000 ases.dcssga.org

STEAM/Math Night (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 9, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Participants will have the opportunity to explore various STEM and math activities that promote critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity. Families can expect to be immersed in exciting STEM demonstrations, such as robotics, coding, and engineering challenges. They will also have the chance to discover the wonders of math through engaging games, puzzles, and interactive math stations.

Bill Arp Elementary School

6550 Alexander Parkway, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3200 baes.dcssga.org

School Improvement Plan and Data Discussion (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Parents will be updated on progress toward this year's School Improvement Plan. The data discussion will detail how Georgia Milestone Assessment results guide the creation, implementation, and monitoring of the school improvement plan each year.

Hour of Code and Rockin' Robots (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Hour of Code is an annual event sponsored by Code.org, a non-profit organization dedicated to making computer science an integral part of student learning. Students and families will participate in various computer science activities and learn how coding makes possible all of the technology related conveniences that have become so integral in modern society.

College and Career Institute

4600 Timber Ridge Drive, Building D, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 947-7690 cci.dcssga.org

Apply to CCI Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:00 PM

Join us at the CCI to tour the facility and learn about the programs that are offered.

Parent University - Testing (VIRTUAL)

Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM

Please join us virtually to discuss upcoming testing information and the new math standards.

Dorsett Shoals Elementary School

5866 Dorsett Shoals Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-3700 dses.dcssga.org

Donuts with Grownups (IN-PERSON)

Friday, November 17, 2023 at 7:00 AM

Donuts with Grownups is a time when parents are invited to start the school day with their child. Students will have the opportunity to read with their "grownup", shown off their hard work, and provide a glimpse into their day-to-day learning. Donuts and beverages are provided and this wonderful event is sponsored in part by our PTA. This is a great way to involve our parents and guardians, and also allow them a convenient time before work to visit our school.

Holly Springs Elementary School

4909 West Chapel Hill Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4000 hses.dcssga.org

A Day in the Life of a Holly Hawk (IN-PERSON)

Thursday, November 30, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Our dedicated student ambassadors will guide parents through a typical day at Holly Springs Elementary School. They will see firsthand the engaging activities and enriching learning opportunities our students participate in. Additionally, we will be reviewing our school's mid-year data, providing valuable information on the academic progress and achievements of our students.

Mason Creek Elementary School

3400 Johnston Road, Winston, GA 30187
(770) 651-4900 maes.dcssga.org

Getting a Pulse on MAES (IN-PERSON)

Wednesday, November 15, 2023 at 8:00 AM (grades k-2) and 11:30 AM (grades 3-5)

Parents are invited to shadow their child in the classroom. Parents will also be invited to the Media Center to hear more information on the current PULSE survey data. This will also be a great time to address any questions and concerns that you may have.

Mason Creek Middle School

7777 Mason Creek Road, Winston, GA 30187
(770) 651-2500 mcms.dcssga.org

Reading and Writing Strategies to Support Students at Home (VIRTUAL)

Wednesday, December 6, 2023 at 10:00 AM

In this session, strategies that families can use at home to support and engage students in reading will be shared. These ideas can be utilized to help reading and literacy engagement be a fun, hands-on experience for the entire family. This meeting will be recorded with viewing access and instructions posted on the school website.

Mt. Carmel Elementary School

2356 Fairburn Road, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4200 mces.dcssga.org

Keeping Our Students Safe with Dignity: Tools for Parents and Teachers

Thursday, December 7, 2023 at 6:00 PM (IN-PERSON)

The event will focus on the present safety features we have in place at Mt. Carmel and ways that parents can help us maintain our security throughout the building. In addition, we will look at the school climate and the discipline trends at Mt. Carmel.

South Douglas Elementary School

8299 Highway 166, Douglasville, GA 30135
(770) 651-4500 sdes.dcssga.org

Science Night (IN-PERSON)

Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM

Join us for a fun filled night of Science and STEM activities at SDES. Mr. Green, The Science Machine, will present an interactive program that is rooted in Next Generation Science Standards that is sure to engage all and make learning about science fun!

