



What is Parental Involvement?

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular; two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- (C) That 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.
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.



About the Parental Involvement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) has developed the parental involvement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. The plan will describe the MCSD's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the district and student academic achievement goals.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school, and enjoy school more. Title I, Part A provides for substantive parental involvement at every level of the program, such as the development and implementation of the district and school plan, and in carrying out the district and school improvement provisions. Consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965, the MCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118 and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 of ESEA.

Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are jointly developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.

State of the District Meeting (CLIP Meeting) ~ Month of May

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Muscogee County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parental involvement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) for the 2015-2016 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent home to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district Web site.

School Improvement Meeting~ Month of May

During this month each Title I school will host a meeting for the parents to participate in a roundtable discussion to review the school's parental involvement program, parental involvement policies, as well as provide input on the parental involvement budget. Each Title I school will send a letter home to parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting.

STRENGTHENING OUR SCHOOLS

This year, the district parent involvement coordinator (PIC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the PIC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its school PIC to review family engagement plans and activities.

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements established by Section of the ESEA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with Student Support Services to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children including providing information and school reports in a language parents can understand.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The MCSD will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY16 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1118 of the ESEA. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs and parent recommendations. Each Title I school will survey parents to gather input on how these parental involvement funds will be used at their school. Parents can also provide suggestions at workshops and meetings throughout the year.

Building School and Parent Capacity

The MCSD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following district wide activities and programs.

The MCSD will work with a district and through its Title I schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as provide information regarding the Title I program. The MCSD will provide classes for parents to gain knowledge about Common Core Georgia Performance Standards and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia (Georgia Milestone) including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes will be shared through school newsletters, websites, marques, and Connect Ed messages. A Parent Resource room is located at each Title I School. The resource room contains resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, and practice assessments, to help parents work with their children at home and are available at all Title I schools for families, including some copies in Spanish.

To ensure that information related to district, school, and parents' programs meetings, and activities is available to all parents in an understandable and uniform format, parent notifications and resources will be sent home in parent's native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings.

The MCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's parental involvement programs with the Head Start program and other state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on parent engagement activities. In the spring, the elementary schools will host Kindergarten Ready days so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for kindergarten.

The MCSD has established a district wide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I.

