

Muscogee County School District

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2017-2018

Revised 7/21/17



Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent

Mission: *To inspire and equip all students to achieve unlimited potential.*

Vision: *The MCSD is a beacon of educational excellence where all are known, valued and inspired.*

www.muscogee.k12.ga.us

What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and family engagement is the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities. Parent and family engagement ensures:

- Parents play an integral role assisting in their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).



What is Title I?

Title I is a federally funded program that provides funds to schools with high percentages of economically disadvantaged students to help ensure that all children meet challenging state academic content and academic standards. Title I provides services that are in addition to or above and beyond what the district is providing for every student/school.

Reservation of Funds

The MCSD will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY18 to carry out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate Parent and Family Engagement budget that addresses their needs and parent recommendations. Each Title I school will survey parents to gather input on how these Parent and Family Engagement funds will be used at their school.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) has developed the Parent and Family Engagement 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 longer, 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. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents and family members in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1116, the MCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116 and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116 of ESSA.

Jointly Developed

All parents were invited to participate in meetings and complete surveys that provide suggestions and ideas to improve the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2017-2018 school year. The district asked parents to take a survey to give input on the policy. The policy and survey was posted on the district website. The district also holds a Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Meeting informing all parents about the District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy. During this meeting, parents can review and discuss the development of the policy. Upon final revision, the District Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be incorporated into the CLIP, which will be submitted to the state.

Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time by submitting feedback forms to their child's school. All feedback received was considered when revising the policy for the new school year. The District's Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be posted on the district's website, distributed by each Title I school at the beginning of the school year, and made available in the school's parent resource centers.

Accessibility

In carrying out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the district Family Engagement Coordinator will communicate and collaborate with district office personnel to ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children. Information will also be provided in a language parents can understand.

Strengthening Our Schools



Each year, the district's Family Engagement Coordinator provides assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parent and family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the coordinator will provide technical assistance to each school regarding Parent and Family Engagement Policies and Practices. In the efforts to improve the effectiveness of the policies and practices for the upcoming year, the Family Engagement Coordinator will hold multiple meetings to strengthen parent and family engagement.

Title I Orientation: The purpose of this meeting is to provide technical assistance to all Title I Family Services Coordinators/Parent Liaisons in the efforts to provide an overview to the Title I program, beginning-of-year procedures, review roles and responsibilities, and provide training for the Annual Title I Parent Meeting.

- **August 2017**

District Parent Meetings: The purpose of these meetings is to provide technical assistance to all parents in efforts to build parent capacity and partnerships between parents, schools, and the community.

- **September 12, 2017/January 23, 2018**

Individual School Meetings: The purpose of these meetings is to provide technical assistance to all Title I schools to improve the effectiveness of individual school's parent and family engagement policies and practices.

- **Meetings are ongoing and scheduled monthly for a date and time that meets the need of each school.**

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the MCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools. There will be an online and hard copy survey to allow stakeholders to give their input. Beginning each April, each Title I school will send home a survey flyer to inform parents of the district's online Parent Involvement Survey. All parents are invited to participate in the survey made available on the district and school's websites. The MCSD will use the findings from the school survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise its parent and family engagement policies.

Building School and Parent Capacity



- The MCSD will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental engagement, 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.
- The MCSD will work with 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 Georgia Standards of Excellence and the achievement standards, as well as the required assessments for Georgia (Georgia Milestones) including alternative forms of assessments. The dates and locations for these classes will be shared through school newsletters, websites, marquees, and automated messages.
- A Parent Resource room/area 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. These resources are available at all Title I schools to help build parent capacity.
- The MCSD will make every effort to ensure that information related to district, school, and parent meetings and activities are available to all parents. Parent notifications and resources will be sent home in the parent's native language, where applicable, and interpreters will be available at parent events and meetings when necessary.
- The MCSD will coordinate and integrate the district's Family engagement 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 Family 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 Family Engagement in Title I.
- The MCSD will conduct multiple trainings for principals and school staff to learn and discuss strategies that will increase parent and family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build strong ties with parents.

