

TITLE I

MCSD PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY

2026-2027

Revised 6/15/2026



What is Parent and Family Engagement?

Parent and family engagement means parents and families participate in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication about their child's academic learning and school activities. Effective parent and family engagement ensures that:

- Parents play an important role in supporting their child's learning at home and at school.
- Parents are encouraged and supported to be actively involved in their child's education.
- Parents are valued as equal partners and, when appropriate, included in decision-making and advisory groups.
- Parents have opportunities to participate in activities that support their child's success, as outlined in Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

What is Title I?

Title I, Part A, is a federally funded program that provides additional resources to schools with higher numbers of students from low-income families to help all students meet state academic standards. These services are provided in addition to what all schools receive.

Title I also supports meaningful parent and family engagement at every level. Parents are involved in the planning and implementation of district and school programs designed to improve student achievement.

In accordance with Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) works with its Title I schools to ensure they develop Parent and Family Engagement Policies and School-Parent Compacts that outline how schools and families will work together to support student success.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

To improve student academic achievement, the Muscogee County School District (MCSD) has developed a Parent and Family Engagement Policy outlining how the district will work with families to support student success. This policy provides guidance for schools on building strong partnerships with parents and offering meaningful opportunities for family engagement in Title I schools.

The plan reflects MCSD's commitment to involving families in their children's education and supporting schools in implementing effective engagement strategies that help students meet academic 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."

Southwest Educational Development Laboratory report

THE POWER OF "WE"!

Dr. David Lewis, Superintendent
2960 Macon Road
Columbus, GA 31906
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MISSION

Our mission is to inspire and equip all students to achieve unlimited potential.

VISION

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

MCSD PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2026-2027



Jointly Developed

All parents are invited to participate in meetings and complete surveys to share ideas and suggestions for improving the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2026–2027 school year. Parent input is collected, reviewed, and used to guide updates and improvements to the policy.

The district provides opportunities for parents to learn about and discuss the policy during the Comprehensive Local Education Agency (LEA) Improvement Plan (CLIP) meeting. At this meeting, parents can review the policy and provide feedback to help shape final decisions.

Parents may also share feedback at any time by submitting forms through their child's school. All feedback is carefully considered when revising the policy each year.

The Parent and Family Engagement Policy and surveys are available on the district website and will be posted on each school's website. Printed copies are also available upon request. Information will be shared in formats and languages that families can understand to ensure all parents have the opportunity to participate.

Reservation of Funds

MCSD will reserve at least 1% of its Title I funds for the 2026–2027 school year to support Parent and Family Engagement activities, as required by federal law. At least 90% of these funds will be provided directly to Title I schools to support activities that strengthen partnerships between families and schools.

The district will guide schools on how to use these funds based on their families' needs. Each Title I school will ask parents for input through surveys or meetings on how these funds should be used.

Parent feedback is an important part of this process and helps schools make decisions about funding Parent and Family Engagement activities. If you have ideas or suggestions, you are encouraged to contact your child's school to share your input.

Adoption

MCSD developed this Parent and Family Engagement Policy in partnership with parents and family members of students participating in Title I programs. Parents, school staff, and district staff worked together to provide input and feedback to shape this policy. This policy was adopted on June 15, 2026, and will be in effect for the 2026–2027 school year. The district will share this policy with all Title I families in multiple ways by September 1, 2026.

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child’s success is the positive involvement of parents.”

Jane D. Hull

Parent & Family Engagement Evaluation

MCSD believes that parents are important partners in their child's education and should have opportunities to share input and help improve school programs. Each year, the district evaluates the effectiveness of its Parent and Family Engagement Policy and activities by:

- Collecting feedback from parents and families through the Annual Title I Parent Survey
- Gathering input during parent meetings, workshops, and other engagement activities

All parents are invited to participate in the survey, which is available on the district and school websites. The district will use survey results and feedback to:

- Improve Parent and Family Engagement activities and programs
- Identify and remove barriers that may prevent families from participating
- Revise the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy

This annual evaluation ensures that parent input is used to strengthen family engagement and support student success.

MCSO PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2026-2027



Strengthening Family-School Partnerships

MCSO is committed to building strong partnerships between families, schools, and the community. To guide this work, the district uses the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which focus on:

- Creating welcoming school environments
- Communicating clearly and effectively with families
- Supporting student learning and success
- Encouraging families to speak up for their children
- Including families in decision-making
- Building partnerships with the community

Each year, the district's Parent and Family Engagement Program Specialist and Bilingual Family Services Coordinator provide support to Title I schools to ensure that Parent and Family Engagement activities meet federal requirements and effectively support families. This support includes:

- Ongoing communication with schools
- School visits and assistance with planning activities
- Guidance on Parent and Family Engagement policies and practices

To continue improving, the district gathers feedback and meets with school staff and families to strengthen engagement practices and plan for the future.

The district also supports schools by providing ongoing technical assistance, monitoring, and feedback to ensure that Parent and Family Engagement activities are implemented effectively and meet federal and state requirements.

Our District Goals

- By June 2031, Muscogee County School District will increase the percentage of students performing at or above grade-level readiness by 20 percentage points through the implementation of evidence-based instructional practices, targeted interventions, and ongoing progress monitoring across all schools.
- By June 2031, Muscogee County School District will reduce districtwide chronic absenteeism by a minimum of 20% from the established baseline year (2025–2026), as measured by official student attendance data reported through the state accountability system.

ACCESSIBILITY

In carrying out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of ESSA, the district Parent and Family Engagement Program Specialist 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 to the extent practicable.



MCSD PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY 2026-2027



Building Parent & Family Capacity

The MCSD and its Title I schools are committed to helping families support student learning at home by providing training, resources, and clear communication. Each Title I school will implement Parent and Family Engagement requirements in accordance with Section 1116 of ESSA...

Each Title I school will:

- Work with parents each year to develop and update the School Parent and Family Engagement Policy/ School-Parent Compact
- Hold an Annual Title I Parent Meeting by September 30 to explain the program and parents' rights
- Offer workshops and resources to support student learning
- Communicate regularly in clear and accessible ways
- Collect and use parent feedback to improve programs and services

Support for Families

Schools will provide workshops and information to help families understand:

- Academic standards, curriculum, and assessments (such as Georgia Milestones)
- Technology, monitoring progress, and how to support learning at home
- Key student transitions (Pre-K through high school and beyond)

Schools will communicate with families in a timely manner using multiple methods and in formats and languages that parents can understand.

Family Involvement

Parents and families are encouraged to be involved by:

- Attending school events and workshops
- Volunteering or participating in school organizations
- Sharing input to help improve school programs

Resources for Parents

All Title I schools provide access to a Parent Resource Area with materials to support learning at home, including guides, tools, and academic resources.

Building School Staff Capacity

The MCSD will provide training and support to help school staff build strong partnerships with families. This training will help staff understand the importance of parents in their children's education and how to work with families as equal partners to support student success.

School staff will be supported in:

- Communicating clearly with families about academic programs, meetings, and resources in languages and formats that parents can understand
- Using effective strategies to increase meaningful parent and family engagement
- Listening to and using parent feedback to improve school programs and activities
- Helping parents understand academic standards, student progress, and ways to support learning at home
- Explaining the Title I program and available supports

MCSD will also work to coordinate parent and family engagement activities across programs to ensure families receive consistent support. All efforts are designed to strengthen relationships between schools and families and improve student achievement.

FEEDBACK

All MCSD stakeholders are encouraged to share suggestions, comments, and feedback about the Parent and Family Engagement Policy at any time. Your input is valued and helps improve programs and services for students and families. You may share feedback by contacting Federal Programs at federalprograms@muscogee.k12.ga.us or by reaching out to your child's school.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership!

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