

Macon County Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2018-2019
Macon County Middle School
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What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement means the participation of parents and family members 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 1116 of the ESSA.

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the Macon County Middle School (MCMS) has developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the school's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the Title I schools. This plan will describe MCMS's commitment to engage families in the education of their children and to build the capacity in this Title I school to implement family engagement strategies and activities designed to achieve the school 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 family engagement at every level of the program, such as in 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 MCSS will work with MCMS to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policy meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Revised September 15, 2018

Jointly Developed

During the annual input meetings in June, all parents are invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve the school's parent and family engagement policy. The school sends an alert to all parents informing them about this meeting and posts an announcement on the school website. During this meeting, parents also review and discuss the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). Additionally, Macon County Middle School personnel review the plan annually before the end of the school year.

Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the policy at any time on the school website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by July is included in the policy for the school year.

The school parent and family engagement policy is posted on the school website, distributed during the annual Title I school meetings and made available in the school's parent resource center.

Strengthening Our School

The district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide assistance and support to Macon County Middle School to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a meeting in April for principals and FECs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

**SCHOOL
FAMILY
PARTNERSHIP**



Revised September 15, 2018

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are 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.

Town Hall Meetings ~ Throughout the School Year

All parents are welcome to hear the latest updates from the Macon County School District as well as review and provide input into the district parent and family engagement policy and the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2018-19 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be sent to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school/ district website.

Parent Input Meeting ~ September 2018

During this month, Macon County Middle School hosts a input meeting for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the school wide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policy as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Macon County Middle School sends invitations home and emails and texts parents notifying them about the date and time of the meeting. Information regarding the School Improvement Input meeting is made available on the school website.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey contains questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Unable to attend these meetings? Please visit www.mcms.k12.ga.us to review the meeting documents and minutes and leave your input.



Building Capacity

The MCMS builds the school's and parents' capacity for strong family engagement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and family members and to support a partnership among the Title I schools, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following school activities and programs. With the teacher, families set student academic goals to be addressed through at-home learning activities and strategies.

Of Parents - The MCMS works to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress, as well as information regarding the Title I program. The MCMS provides classes for parents to gain knowledge about the challenging state academic standards, local academic assessments, as well as the required assessments for Georgia students including alternative forms of assessment. The dates and locations for these classes and meetings are posted on the district and school websites and shared through each Title I school's newsletter.

The MCMS also coordinates pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments, and activities, to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials are made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), the MCMS technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. Dates and times for these workshops will be determined and announced by each MCMS school.

The MCMS has established a school-wide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives to provide advice on all matters related to family engagement in Title I, Part A programs. Community leaders and business partners will be invited to serve on this council. The district also encourages collaboration and participation with community partners by posting meeting agendas and minutes of council and other school meetings on the website and increase participation by utilizing technology to accommodate the schedules of these valuable partners.

The MCMS will coordinate and integrate the school's family engagement programs with Macon County Elementary School and Macon County High School to ensure smooth transition both to the MCMS and from the MCMS. The MCMS will also coordinate with these schools to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

Of School Staff - The MCSS will conduct three trainings during the school year for principals and school FECs to learn and discuss strategies to increase family engagement, improve school-family communication, and build ties with parents and the community. These trainings will be redelivered to the faculty and staff of MCMS. The MCMS will also host a training for appropriate school staff and faculty that will focus on creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs, meetings, and activities is available to all parents, each Title I school is required to send home and post online information for parents and family members in an understandable language and uniform format. At the beginning of the year, school staff will be trained on parent notifications and resources to be sent home in parents' native language, where applicable, and providing interpreters at parent events and meetings. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The school will also utilize the district/school phone call systems, district and school websites, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

Revised September 15, 2018

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, the MCSS will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy and the family engagement activities to improve the academic quality of this Title I school through an annual parent survey and the School Improvement Input meetings.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will send home a survey and email a link to the survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parent and family engagement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school

websites for parents to complete. In addition to the annual survey, MCMS will also use the School Improvement Input meetings to facilitate group discussions to discuss the needs parents of children eligible to receive Title I services and to design strategies for more effective family engagement.

The MCSS will use the findings from the school meetings and the 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.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district family engagement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the Office for 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.

Mark Your Calendars

For Parents

Annual Parent Survey
Spring, 2019

School Improvement Meeting
September 2018
MCMS Cafeteria

Parental Involvement
in the School Lives of Children

