



McINTOSH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2021-2022
Revised July 1, 2021
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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 the following:

- 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 MCSD Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the McIntosh County School District (MCSD) developed this parent and family engagement policy that establishes the district's expectations and objectives for meaningful family engagement and guides the strategies and resources that strengthen school and parent partnerships in the district's Title I schools. This plan will describe 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 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 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. The MCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required School-Parent-Student Compact meet the requirements of federal law and that the Title I schools of Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

All parents were invited to provide suggestions, feedback, input, and revisions to improve the MCSD District Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the 2021-2022 school year through input surveys distributed during April, 2021. During the annual State of the District Input meeting in June, 2021, all parents were invited to participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement plan for the 2021-2022 school year. The district sent an email to all parents informing them about this meeting, posted a notice in the local newspaper, and posted an announcement on the school district's website. During the meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). This included discussion and input into the Comprehensive Needs Assessment, District Improvement Plan, and reservation of funds. Additionally, each Title I school used its spring input meetings and School Council to review the district parent and family engagement policy before the end of the school year.

Upon final revision, the district parent and family engagement policy was incorporated into the CLIP which was submitted to the state. Parents are welcome to submit comments and feedback regarding the plan at any time on the school district website or by submitting written comments to your child's school. All feedback received by June 30th was included with the plan for this school year.

The district's process to distribute this policy is to post it on district and school websites and in parent resource centers, disseminate it during the annual Title I school meetings in the fall, and email the link to all parents in a format and language they can understand.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools 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 to review the family engagement policy and activities.

Additionally, the district will convene a summit in October 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.

The district Family Engagement Coordinator (FEC) will assist and support all Title I schools 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.

Reservation of Funds

The MCSD will reserve one percent (1%) from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2021-2022 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in federal law. Furthermore, the MCSD will distribute ninety percent (90%) of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent and family recommendations. Stakeholder input was solicited through the school and district input meetings and surveys regarding how these parent and family engagement funds could be used in the upcoming year. If you have suggestions, please contact the FEC in the district office.

Communications

Parents shall be notified of the parent and family engagement policy in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent possible, provided in a language the parents can understand. Each Title I school shall offer a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement. Each school shall also provide parents of participating children timely information about programs. If requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation - Annual Evaluation

Input and suggestions from parents, family members, and community partners are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. The MCSD will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful engagement of parents, families, and community stakeholders, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of our Title I, Part A schools. 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.

Annual Title I Meeting

At the beginning of the school year, all Title I schools will host a meeting to inform all parents of the Title I requirements and the school's participation in and parent's rights under Title I.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this policy, all Title I schools, along with our families will jointly develop school-parent compacts in order to build and develop a partnership to help our students reach the challenging state academic standards. These compacts serve as agreements that parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all students reach grade level standards by following and accomplishing goals set forth by parents, teachers, and students. The compacts will be revised annually, distributed to all families, reviewed at parent/teacher conferences.

School Improvement Forums - March/April 2022

During this week, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in discussions to review the schoolwide plan, the school's parent and family engagement policies as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and topics for school staff training. Each Title I school will send invitations home as well as email and text parents to notify them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites.

Input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the annual district survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget and school staff training for parents to provide their comments.

Parent-Family Input Surveys - March/April 2022

The MCSD and each Title I school will provide input surveys to seek input, feedback, and suggestions and email a link to the survey for parents to provide meaningful 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. 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 will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

MCSD Title I Stakeholders Input Meeting - April/May 2022

The MCSD will host an input meeting during the spring to seek input, feedback, and suggestions for the follow: *Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA), District improvement Plan, District Parent and Family Engagement Plan, District Parent & Family Engagement Budget, and training sessions for Building Staff Capacity.*

The MCSD will use the findings from the district and school input meetings and survey results to design strategies to improve effective family engagement, to remove possible barriers to parent participation, and to revise the district parent and family engagement policy.

All school and district Title I meeting documents, handouts, agendas, and presentations will be posted on the district and school websites for parents/families to view and provide input if they are unable to attend events. Feedback can also be submitted at any time to cnoble@mcintosh.k12.ga.us or dmcnair@mcintosh.k12.ga.us.

Building Capacity of Parents and Staff

The McIntosh County School District will build schools' and parents' capacity for strong family engagement. This capacity will ensure effective engagement of parents and family members in supporting partnerships among the Title I schools, parents, and the community with the goal of improving student academic achievement. To build this capacity, the MCINTOSH COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT will implement district-wide activities and programs. With the teacher, families set student academic goals to be addressed through at-home learning activities and strategies.

Of Parents - Supporting Student Success - The MCS D will work through its Title I schools to help parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to student learning and progress. The district will also provide parents with information about the overall Title I program and its requirements. Specific information related to the Georgia Standards of Excellence and local and state assessments—including alternative assessments will also be provided.

Communicating Effectively - The MCS D will coordinate pages on the district and school websites that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, study guides, practice assessments to help parents work with their children at home. Copies of these materials will be made available at all Title I schools for those families who may have limited internet access, including copies in Spanish. To assist parents with understanding the online student information system and other digital educational resources (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), the McIntosh County School District's technology specialists will partner with Title I schools to host workshops for parents. The dates and times for these opportunities will be determined and notifications will be shared through school messaging systems, newsletters, the district app, websites, flyers, and social media postings.

Speaking Up for All - The MCS D will re-establish a district-wide Parent Advisory Council comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school. This council's purpose will be 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. In addition, each school has an active school council.

Welcoming All Families - The district will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal and State, and local laws and programs such as, the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district. The district will invite faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities. In the spring, schools will host Kindergarten Ready days, Middle and High School Transition Nights, and College and Career Fair so parents may receive information to help prepare them and their children for the next life stage.

Sharing Power - The district and schools are committed to encouraging opportunities for parents and family members to serve as parent leaders by helping to organize events, volunteering at schools, participating in PTA/PTO, serving on school councils, and networking with each other and with the community.

Collaborating with the Community - MCS D will collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation that enhance school environments.

Of School Staff - The McIntosh County School District will conduct four trainings during the school year for principals and school staff 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 Title I schools. The McIntosh County School District 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, 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. Information posted on the district website will be translated to the extent practicable. The district will also utilize school phone call systems, district and school websites, a new district app, local news media, and other school message systems to post information for parents.

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.

Adoption

This district-wide parent and family engagement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District Input Meeting.

This plan was approved by the **McIntosh County School Board of Education** on **July 12, 2021** and will be in effect for the 2021-2022 academic school year. The school district will distribute this policy in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before **November 1, 2021**.