

2025-2026 ATKINSON COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL
Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success

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PART I – SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY ~ GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

Atkinson County Middle School is a Title I School. In accordance with Title I Guidelines, a Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed. Atkinson County Middle School believes in the importance of good communication between the home and the school to ensure a successful learning experience for all students. It is our goal to provide multiple opportunities for parents, families, students, and school staff to establish strong, meaningful, and lasting connections. We pride ourselves on creating a positive school climate that is a key factor to boosting student, parent, family and community engagement, as well as academic success for all students.

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving the student's academic learning and other school activities, including and ensuring:

- Families recognize the education of their child is a joint responsibility of parents and ACMS.
- Families will help their child understand that appropriate rules are required to maintain a safe, orderly environment.
- Families may enhance relationships and be full partners with the school and be actively involved with their child, teachers and administrators by participating in school functions such as Open House, Grade Expectations Night, and Parent-Teacher Conferences.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.

Atkinson County School District Goals:

- **By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, the district will increase the percentage of students scoring proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) in both Reading and Mathematics by at least 2% across all grades levels, as measured by spring 2026 GMAS results. This goal will be supported through targeted instructional strategies, data-drive instructions, and ongoing professional development for educators.**
- **By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, the district will increase overall teacher and student attendance by 2% as measured by the average daily attendance rate reported**

in state accountability data. This improvement will be achieved through proactive communication, attendance incentives, and early intervention.

In conjunction with the district's goal, Atkinson County Middle School also believes there is always room for academic improvement.

Therefore, ACMS goals are:

- To improve instructional practices and student support to meet state performance targets for all student subgroups in ELA, mathematics, science, and social studies, while increasing the percentage of students that meet developing level or higher by 2% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- To increase the mean scale score for all students by implementing Atco writing strategies with fidelity by the end of the 2025-2026 school year by 2%.
- To monitor and improve the number of students who will attend school at a minimum of 80% of the 2025-2026 school year.
- To ensure that all students have access to the support they need to thrive academically and emotionally by employment of additional mental health personnel thus increasing the number of students receiving mental health support services by 15% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

Atkinson County Middle School Title I funds will be used to supplement other local, state, and federal funds to purchase technology, consumables, other needed instructional materials for students and teacher salaries. Title I funds will also be used for teacher professional learning activities to stay up to date with best practices. Examples of Title I Parent and Family Engagement funding are: parent and family engagement personnel salaries, supplies for parent/family workshops, translations, resource centers, and family correspondence. Atkinson County Middle School will involve the families and students in the joint development and agreement of its Parent and Family Engagement Policy and its School Wide Plan, in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner. This policy is presented at the School Council, Leadership Team, and during stakeholders' meetings for consideration of improvements, revisions, and adoption on an annual basis to meet requirements of Title I Part A.

PART II DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL-WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Parent and Family Engagement Policy:

- The policy will be distributed to each family during the first 45 days of school and upon enrollment of new students. The policy is also available during all school meetings and on the information table for public access.
- Every school year, the school will collaborate with parent and family groups to review and update the Parent and Family Engagement Policy to reflect needed improvements to ensure student success.

- Updates to the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the School-Wide plan, School Improvement Plan, and the School-Family Compact will be posted on the school's website and will be available in the front office for public access.
- ACMS will host stakeholders' meetings for all families and the community
- Atkinson County Middle School will convene an Annual Title I Meeting to inform families of the following:
 - * Their child's school Title I participation status
 - * The requirements and rights to be involved in Title I
 - * The resources provided through their school's participation in Title I
 - * How Title I Funds and the required 1% of Title I Funds for parent and family engagement dollars are spent
 - * To inform families of the time/place of the Annual Title 1 Meeting the school will use: the Remind Messaging System, letters home, social media, county and school calendars, announcements in the local newspaper, and the school announcement board
- Atkinson County Middle School will provide opportunities for families to be involved in their child's education which will build the capacity for strong family engagement. These activities may include but are not limited to:
 - * **Spring Forward – May 2026**
 - School tour while school is in session for upcoming 6th grade students.
 - * **9th Grade Orientation – May 2026**
 - Students also tour ACHS Atkinson County High School while school is in session.
 - * **Open House – July 2025**
 - Meet your child's teacher as well as school staff. Title I Brochures disseminated
 - * **Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Family Compact Revisions Stakeholders' Meetings – Continuous**
 - Data and suggestions from community/families/staff are collected throughout the school year for ACMS's Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy and School-Family Compact.
 - * **Annual Title I Meeting – July/August 2025**
 - FY26 Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy is disseminated. The principal discusses Title I Components, how Title I Funds are spent, and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act).
 - * **Grade Expectations Night – August 2025**

-Educate parents on GSE (Georgia Standards of Excellence) and the different areas of academics. Printed materials sent home explaining ways for families to continue to academically assist their student at home.

*** System Annual Title I Meeting – Winter – Spring 2026**

-Build capacity to involve families/stakeholders in an effective partnership with the school.

*** Literacy Event/Reading Night – October 2025**

-Concentrate on literacy learning skills and how families can assist their student at home. Learn how to incorporate reading into daily life.

*** Math Night– October 2025**

-Concentrate on math learning skills and how families can assist their children at home. Learn how to incorporate math skills into daily life.

*** Science and Social Studies Night – January 2026**

- Concentrate on science learning skills and how families can assist their children at home. Learn how to incorporate science skills into daily life. Students will showcase Science Fair Projects and present oral presentations.

*** Georgia Milestones Event – March 2026**

-Concentrate on ways families can assist students to ensure success on the Georgia Milestones Test.

*** School Council/Stakeholders' Meetings – Continuous**

-Meet at least 4 times per year, provide input on improvements to ensure students are provided quality experiences at ACMS. Families/teachers are notified of the meeting dates by flyers sent home with each student, the school website, social media, and school calendars.

*** The Title I Resource Center at Atkinson County Middle School - Continuous**

-A variety of materials are offered for parents to pick up. Families can use these resources to work successfully with their children. ACMS will continuously add resources to the resource area.

*** Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences – Continuous**

-Discuss expectations and student progress.

- Atkinson County Middle School will provide families of the students at ACMS with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, any forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the proficiency levels students are expected to meet. This will be done through meetings and the sending home of informational flyers.
- Families may view their student's attendance, discipline, and academic progress by utilizing our user-friendly Parent Portal Program.

- Atkinson County Middle School will provide opportunities for families and students to meet with the teachers, counselors, and/or administrators to make suggestions and to participate in decisions relating to their student's education (i.e. School Council membership, student council, stakeholders' meetings, parent surveys, Georgia Milestones Assessment System, and educational meetings, etc.).
- Families may submit School-Wide Plan concerns by letter to the administrative team or by email to the school's administration. Atkinson County Middle School will submit these concerns to the Atkinson County LEA for Title I; furthermore, the School Council will review such comments and consider ways to resolve the disputed sections of the School-Wide Plan.
- Partner with the Pearson Elementary, Willacoochee Elementary, and Atkinson County High School to share school information about parent and family engagement activities that will help prepare families and their child for both middle school and high school transitions.

School-Family Compact:

- Families and students will receive a copy of the compact, and new students will receive a copy with their initial enrollment packets.
- Signed School-Family Compacts are collected by homeroom teachers and filed in the front office.
- ACMS will present professional development to the entire staff on developing effective communication between staff and families in order to promote an equal partnership between the home and school.

ACMS will provide support for parental involvement activities as requested by parent surveys. Survey results show parents desire an increase in communication and family engagement. Therefore, the school has developed several means of communication to include early morning announcement time by intercom heard by students and staff, use of the Remind Messaging System, frequent website updates, use of emails, and the submission of regular newspaper articles regarding school events or successes.

PART III – DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL WIDE PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Atkinson County Middle School, under the Title I Mandate, is committed to building parent and family engagement to support a partnership among the students, parents, families, school and the community to improve student academic achievement. The following are representative examples:

- ACMS will, with the assistance of its district, provide parent and family engagement activities, family education workshops, and materials and trainings to encourage and support parent

and family participation in the education process to improve academic achievement and to foster parent and family engagement.

- ACMS will provide formal Parent/Teacher Conferences, on a needed basis. At these meetings, information will be provided regarding the student's progress towards reaching proficiency on the state academic achievement standards.
- ACMS will provide information on student mastery of the state content standards and student progress through progress reports, report cards, state and local assessment results, and work samples.
- ACMS will provide translation services to the extent feasible for meetings, events, conferences, and written communications.
- ACMS will disseminate information related to the school, family programs, meetings, and other activities in an understandable format and language that families can understand.
- ACMS participates in Atkinson County Family Connections. This alliance is where our community comes together for family engagement, community engagement, school engagement and corporate engagement. Examples of programs Atkinson County Family Connections offer are: parent/family education, youth development, assistance for families, and educated and working community.

** **Atkinson County Family Connections Mission:** "We envision a Georgia where all children are healthy, primed for school, and succeed when they get there; and where strong families contribute to vibrant, robust communities that thrive."*

PART IV – ACCESSIBILITY

Atkinson County Middle School will provide opportunities for participation by Title I parents with limited English proficiency and families with disabilities. This includes providing information and school reports in an understandable format and a language that families can understand.

PART V – ADOPTION

The Atkinson County Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact were revised during Leadership Team, School Council, Staff and Stakeholders' meetings. Atkinson County Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact were revised and adopted on May 14, 2025.

ACMS Parent Engagement Team

At Atkinson County Middle School, we consider all families to be partners in their child's education; therefore, you all are a part of the Parent Engagement Team. Atkinson County Middle School invites all families to be actively involved in our school's decision-making process. We welcome you to share ideas and ways to involve other families to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. We will have stakeholders' meetings, in addition to other meetings, during the school year to make certain all families are able to

participate. Our school plans are living documents, so families can submit their ideas or suggestions during any activities and/or meetings as well as through our parent surveys or by email. If you would like to learn more about how to help, please contact Dr. Calandra Holmes at (912) 422-3267 or Dr. Scarlett Wetherington at (912) 422-3267.

We look forward to working together in order to improve student achievement for all students at Atkinson County Middle School!

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the schools' goals for achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided below. Then, leave the completed form in the front office.

Name (optional): _____

Telephone Number (optional) _____
