

# Miller County Schools

## Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2023-2024 Revised  
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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, Miller County Schools (MCS) has 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 MCS'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 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, MCS will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.

## Jointly Developed

Parents were invited to attend meetings in May, June and July to provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2023-2024 school year. The notification for Parent Engagement sessions to develop the policy was advertised on the district website, School Messenger, reminder cards and flyers, and each school's facebook page. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). The policy will be monitored and revised annually by each School's Council.

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 policy at any time on the district website or by submitting written comments to their student's school. All feedback received by July was considered for inclusion within the policy for this school year.

The district parent and family engagement policy is posted on district website, distributed during the annual Title I meeting, reviewed with School Councils and other meetings where parents are involved in building partnerships with the schools.

## Strengthening Our School

Each school's Parent & Community Council serves as a stakeholder group. Each meeting will be advertised for the public to attend. The goal of the stakeholder group is to create a family and community network to bridge with the school and staff to ensure that the School Improvement Plan is monitored with fidelity as well as offering meaningful activities for family and community. The stakeholder group gathers and analyzes data to ensure meaningful planning and coordination. In order to ensure that family engagement activities are meaningful as well as providing an effective means for parents and stakeholders to understand the factors involved in successful student achievement, teachers will receive ongoing professional development in developing meaningful compacts and parent plans. In addition, each School Council meeting will have an action agenda item aligned to successful Family & Community Engagement planning.

## Reservation of Funds

MCS reserves 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY24 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the district will distribute 90 percent 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 recommendations. Parents and family members of children receiving services under Title I, Part A shall be involved in the decisions regarding how the reserved 1% is allotted for parental involvement activities. Family Engagement funds will be used to carry out activities and strategies consistent with this policy, including not less than one of the following: 1) supporting schools and non-profit organizations in providing professional development for district and school personnel regarding family and community engagement activities which may be provided jointly to teachers, principals, other school leaders, specialized instructional support personnel, paraprofessionals, early childhood educators, and parents and family members. 2) supporting programs that reach parents and family members at home, in the community and at school. 3) Dissemination of information on best practices for increasing economically disadvantaged parents and family members, 4) collaborating or providing subgrants to schools to enable such schools to collaborate, with community-based or other organizations or employers with a record of success in improving family engagement.







## 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 participate in opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach academic achievement goals.

To ensure that parents and community are informed of opportunities to participate in activities, MCS advertises in a variety of formats: district & school website ([www.miller.k12.ga.us](http://www.miller.k12.ga.us)),

School Messenger electronic messaging system, flyers, reminder cards, and school marquis to name a few. Onsite and online activities are provided.

School Improvement Forums for SY 2023-2024 were advertised for dates in May, June and July.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement activities is provided by an annual district survey that can be completed any time: [www.miller.k12.ga.us/schoolimprovement](http://www.miller.k12.ga.us/schoolimprovement). Surveys and other data collection for improvement effort is provided at all school sponsored activities.

Families and community are encouraged to complete feedback forms during Family & Community Engagement activities.

Each Title I school will hold an annual meeting independent of the date and time of the other schools to discuss the effectiveness of the Title I program and allow parents and community the opportunity to provide input for improvement. The date and time will be scheduled in order that attendance is convenient for participation.

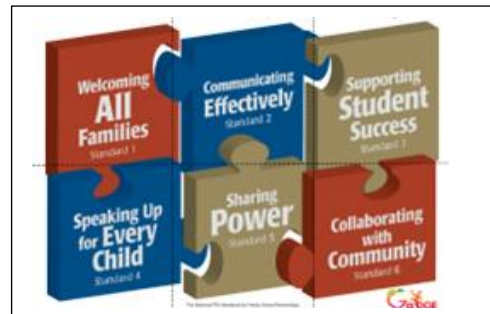
## Building Capacity

MCS will build the schools' 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 are encouraged to participate in school and districtwide activities that support improving student achievement.

- (1) SHALL provide assistance to parents of children served by the school or local educational agency, as appropriate, in understanding such topics as the challenging State academic standards, state and local academic assessments, the requirements of this part, and how to monitor a child's progress and work with educators to improve the achievement of their children;
- (2) SHALL provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement;
- (3) SHALL educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school;
- (4) SHALL, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children;
- (5) SHALL ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand;
- (6) SHALL provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

### *Of Parents-* MCS will work as a district and

through 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 information regarding the Title I program. MCS will provide sessions 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.



**School Councils: Maintaining Active Stake Holding:** MCS maintains that there are 6 core standards for effective student achievement through active Family & Community Engagement. In consultation with each school's council, the Federal Programs Director will provide technical assistance and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities. This includes meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and other agencies, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

MCS will also publish 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 languages other than English. In addition, assistance will be provided to parents to understand the online student information system and other digital educational resources. MCS will partner with Title I schools to host informational sessions for parents.

MCS will coordinate and integrate the district's family engagement programs with the local preschool program and other federal and state funded preschool programs in the district by inviting faculty and staff from those programs to attend planning meetings focused on family engagement activities.



***Of School Staff*** – MCS will provide ongoing professional learning for its staff through Professional Learning Communities in order 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 delivered to the faculty and staff of Title I schools. Embedded in the learning communities will be topics that support creating welcoming environments and improving two-way communication with families.

To ensure that information related to district, school, parent programs and activities are 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. Throughout the school year, school staff will be trained regarding 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.

## **Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation**

MCS will analyze data related to the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy through activity participation evaluations and surveys. In addition, an annual survey will be distributed regarding the effectiveness of Family & Community practices. Each Title I school will maintain a core stakeholder group to facilitate group discussions regarding the needs of parents and children eligible to receive Title I services. Activities will be designed to provide strategies for more effective family engagement.

MCS will use the findings from school forums and 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 Federal Programs Director will communicate and collaborate with the Georgia Department of Education 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 districtwide 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 and the school district.

This policy was adopted by MCS on July 24, 2023 and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 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 September 1, 2019.

**Disclaimer:** The use of the term **policy** is to denote Federal Compliance for Title IA and supporting Federal Programs. It is not connected to Miller County Board of Education policy.

