

McIntosh County School District

Parental Involvement Policy

2016–2017
Revised: October 21, 2016
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What is Parental Involvement?

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, 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 1118 of the ESEA.*

About the Parental Involvement Policy

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, the McIntosh County School District (MCSD) has developed this parental involvement policy that establishes the district's expectations for parental involvement 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 parental involvement 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 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) contains the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and school systems to involve parents in their children's education. Consistent with Section 1118, the MCSD will work with its Title I schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

Jointly Developed

Annually, all schools will survey parents to ascertain the effectiveness and appropriateness of the parent involvement policy. Areas to be evaluated will include identifying barriers to parent participation such as low income, disabilities, limited literacy, or other racial or ethnic considerations. The findings of this evaluation will be used to design strategies for school improvement, help develop the CLIP, and, if necessary, revise the LEA/school-parent involvement policies. Schools will complete a parental involvement needs assessment for evaluation purposes to identify areas of strengths and weaknesses.

The McIntosh County School System will conduct several meetings with parents and school staff to review the parent involvement policy such as an Annual Title I Parent Meeting, School Council meetings, PTA meetings, Parent Involvement Policy Parent Meeting, and other special parent meetings. Parents will complete a "Suggestion Survey" with input which will be utilized in the revision process of the parent involvement policy and other parent involvement programs and events.

At the end of the school year, the Title I committee will review and evaluate all suggestions, assessments, surveys, and other input concerning parent involvement policies and parental involvement programs. This committee will use the findings of the evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement and to revise the school system parental involvement policies.

Strengthening Our School

This year, the district parent involvement coordinator (PIC) will provide assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure parental involvement requirements are being satisfied and that parent engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the PIC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the Title I Director and the System PIC will hold monthly meetings and trainings with its Title I schools' principals to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene a summit in June for principals, the System PIC, and parents to review parental involvement requirements and plan opportunities for parental involvement activities and meetings.

Reservation of Funds

The McIntosh County School District will reserve 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives FY16 to carry out the parental involvement requirements listed in this policy and as described in Section 1118 of ESEA. Furthermore, the MCSD will distribute 95 percent of the amount reserved to all Title I schools to support their local-level parental involvement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate parental involvement budget that addresses their needs assessment and parent recommendations. The school district involves parents through the School Councils and Community Organizations in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent. The system ensures that not less than 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools. School Parent Involvement Coordinator's salary, parent resource materials, school events, workshops, and other parent related activities are supported with these funds.





Opportunities for Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents are an essential component of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. Parents are involved in planning, reviewing, and revising the system and individual school improvement plans (including Title I components, Parent Compacts, and Title I Parent Involvement Policies) through the school councils, community organizations, surveys, conferences, and the school system website. Parents can also attend monthly Board of Education meetings or submit in writing or voice any concerns to the board members or school administrators anytime during the school year. Concerns and/or questions are answered in a timely manner either by phone or in writing.

Building School and Parent Capacity

The McIntosh County School District will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below.

The school district will work through all system schools to provide assistance to parents in understanding state and district academic information connected to their student's learning and progress as well as regarding the Title I program. Parents will be made aware of these standards and at what level their child is expected to perform to meet the state standards. McIntosh County parents are notified of the state's academic content standards and student's academic achievement standards through letters, school newsletters, school and system websites, local media, annual Title I Parent Information Night, technology workshops, parent/teacher conferences, etc. Parent conferences are an expectation for all students in jeopardy of failing during the first nine weeks. Conferences are required for all students at least once during the school year. During the conference, parents are informed of achievement standards, testing requirements, student's progress, and how to monitor and work with their child.

The McIntosh County School District will provide technology training for parents through a Parent Resource Center (one at each school), a Z-Space Computer Lab, a WIFI Bus, and technology workshops. The Parent Center will contain computers and valuable resources and materials (booklets, printouts, parent guides, etc.), for parents to access to help them work with their children as well as information regarding the Title I program. The WIFI Bus will be available at designated areas staffed with a certified teacher for parents to work with their student in completing homework and research.

The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start and other state funded Preschool programs in the district by having schools invite families and preschool (Head Start and local Daycare Center) children into the school to visit, have lunch and participate in planned activities. The children and the parents will be allowed to tour the elementary school and will coordinate with these programs to ensure that parents are informed about available resources.

The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. Frequent and positive school-to-home communication (in the form of agendas, phone calls, progress reports, conferences, personal notes and home visits) will be sent home in a parent friendly format that parents will be able to understand and free of educational jargon. The correspondence is translated and distributed in the native language of the parent to the extent possible if needed.

McIntosh County Schools shall provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency and parents with disabilities including providing information and school profiles in a language and form such that parents understand for parents to understand the school's academic standards and assessments as well as the ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators.

Annually, the System McIntosh County Title I Director will schedule staff meetings to educate school administrators, teachers, and other staff in how to reach, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners to implement parent programs and build ties between parents and schools.

The McIntosh County Title I program has one parent involvement coordinator that is shared between three schools. The school coordinator collaborates with the principals, school stakeholders, agencies, and Title I Director to plan and implement effective parent involvement activities and helps to foster a cooperative spirit among schools, parents, and the community. In addition, the parent involvement coordinator in the McIntosh County School System will participate in webinars and other Professional Development opportunities for support in developing an effective parent involvement program.

Parents will also be invited to take part in the training of teachers concerning parent involvement by suggestions and input from several parent involvement events and School Council meetings.

The McIntosh County School District will provide other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 by involving local community groups and businesses. These community-based organizations and businesses help to support and encourage parent involvement activities within the school district. These groups can be an excellent resource to schools by providing instructional support to events such as career day, literacy day, reading to classes, mentoring and other roles as identified by schools. Community-based organization and local businesses that support and encourage parent involvement activities in our school system are Bi-Lo Food Store, Piggly Wiggly, The Darien News, Darien Telephone Company, several churches, Rotary, YMCA, United Way, Family Connections, APEX, CHINS, LIPT, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

Parental Involvement Evaluation

Each year, the MCSD will conduct an evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy and the parental involvement activities to improve the academic quality of the Title I schools through an annual parent survey. It will also be placed on the District and Schools' website for parental review and evaluation.

In the spring of the school year, each school will send home a survey for parents to provide valuable feedback regarding the parental involvement activities and programs. These surveys will also be posted on the district and school websites for parents to complete. McIntosh School District will use the findings from the survey results to design strategies to improve effective parental involvement, to remove possible barriers to

parent participation, and to revise its parental involvement policies.

Parents will be invited to the Summer Leadership Data Week in June to give input and suggestions for the revision of the McIntosh County District Parent Involvement Policy.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements established by Section 1118 of the ESEA, the district parent involvement coordinator will communicate and collaborate with the District Title I Director and the McIntosh County System ESOL Coordinator 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 parental involvement policy has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel.

This policy was adopted by the McIntosh County School District on October 21, 2016 and will be in effect for the 2016-2017 academic school year. The school district will place this District Parent Involvement Policy on the District website and will be available at the Board of Education office if requested by November 1, 2016.

