Mobile County Public School System
Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2020 - 2021

The Mobile County Public School System's District Parent Advisory Committee which consists of parents as representatives from each schools will participate in decision making for the district while providing feedback from local schools regarding the LEA plan. The district Parent Advisory Committee will meet quarterly (virtually at this time due to COVID-19) to review, support and provide improvement as necessary. Parent input is sought on all plans at both the district and school level. The names of these parents will be provided as contacts on the LEA website.

The school district will provide parent program managers, parent organizers and school improvement specialists to provide technical assistance, coordination and support to all Title I schools to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to support parent and family engagement activities. The LEA and local schools will provide at a minimum quarterly parent workshops/meetings (virtually and using Social Media at this time due to COVID-19). Local schools may fund parent organizers to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to improve parental involvement. The English Language division's Bilingual/Migrant Parent Specialist will provide additional assistance and support to migrant and English Language Learners. Community stakeholders and partners in education are also included and receive technical assistance to support parent and family engagement while building capacity within the schools. Community partners will also be encouraged to participate in all activities to support effective parent and family engagement.

The LEA will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies through the Parents as First Teachers program, Head Start Programs and Foster Grandparents; as well as the Office of School Readiness "First Class" Pre-K. Parents are encouraged to participate in all parent and family engagement activities that occur in the system. A Parent and Family Engagement Plan is developed and revised each year at the school level and parental input is garnered. Plans assure that parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate with other relevant Federal, State and local laws and programs.

The school district will utilize the Continuous Improvement Review process to identify barriers to greater participation and assess the effectiveness of the parental involvement policy, activities, procedures, and policies as they relate to continuous improvement of parent involvement in schools. This also allows for parent participation in the continuous improvement plan process. The annual survey will be provided and made available to all parents within the LEA. The survey will be available in a language and format for all parents to understand. The survey will be provided virtually and using Social Media as well as the school website and parent email distribution lists at this time due to COVID-19. Parents may also request to have anything mailed or pick up hard copies at the school.

MCPSS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation in assisting with the learning of their children and engaging with school personnel and teachers. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental and family engagement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement with teachers and school leaders to assist their children and remove any barriers to learning.

The LEA will use the Dual Capacity-Building Framework for Family-School Partnership strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The strategies will build capacity among families and schools while supporting student learning.

The findings of the annual evaluation of the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be used to revise, if necessary the Parent and Family Engagement Policy. The LEA District Parent Advisory Committee will review the findings of the annual evaluation of the LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy and if necessary revise to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement. The revised policy will be shared with local school parent advisory committees for further review and input.

The Mobile County Public School System's District Parent Advisory Committee which consists of parents from a representative number of schools will participate in decision making for the district while providing feedback from local schools regarding Parental and Family Engagement and the district's Title I program. The district Parent Advisory Committee will meet quarterly (virtually at this time due to COVID-19). The Mobile County Public School System's website "For Parents" has information posted for all parents including the Parent Advisory Committee meeting dates and contact information for members. The district's quarterly magazine will provide information to parents and encourage parent and family engagement. The district's informative TV show, "Parent Connect" provides information and guests to provide information to keep parents informed and empowered. The parent advisory committee members who are also representatives on the local school parent advisory committees will assist with developing, revising and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy while addressing survey results.

The Mobile County Public School System's focus for the 2020-2021 school year is Alabama College and Career Ready Standards, ACAP, ACT, attendance and technology. Virtual parent meetings and social media connections will be held through the district to provide training and assistance with Schoology, ACAP, ACT and attendance along with available resources. Parents will also participate and receive information to support school to school transitions. Technology will continue to be a focus in order to bring parents into 21st Century Learning; including: basic computer usage, INOW, online curriculum programs, SCHOOLinSITES, online registration, district parent communication tools and learning platforms to support student achievement. The district will implement an on-site "Parent Connect Cafe" in the Academic Affairs building which will have computer stations available for parents during central office hours. Parents will also have the opportunity to monitor their child's progress using INOW by having access to computers at each school and central office. Central office personnel will coordinate the parent-teacher-student partnership conferences that take place in the fall of each year (virtually and by phone as necessary). Parents are provided reports on their child's expectations and actual progress on various assessments and supports that effect student achievement such as attendance.

The school district will provide professional development for parents on how to effectively communicate with schools. Workshops such as, test prep, partnership conferences, DIBELS, ACT, ACAP and technology resources will be provided. Transition for Special Needs students, grade to grade transitions, Alabama College and Career Ready Standards will also be provided virtually and/or through social media etc. Parent literacy and math nights are strongly encouraged to support literacy training and student achievement. The district parent resource center and local school resource centers work with parents to provide materials to support student achievement. Using technology, bring your own devices and current polices i.e. "Copyright Piracy" are also addressed as well as digital citizenship.

Professional development will be provided for teachers and staff on actively involving parents, teacher response time and parent communication. New Teacher Orientation will also include professional development for new teachers on how to effectively communicate with parents. The school district's Office of Home-School -Community Involvement will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental and family engagement in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the schools, parents, and the community. Volunteers are solicited from community organizations to act as mentors and tutors (as available due to COVID-19 precautions). The establishment of parent resource centers in participating schools is strongly encouraged by the school district along with a district Parent Resource Center. The district has two Parent Program Managers and some schools use their Title I dollars to provide local school Parent Program Organizers. October is set aside as "Parent and Family Engagement" month.

The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies through the Goodwill Easter Seals, First Teacher: Home Visiting program which uses the "Parents as Teachers" model; Foster Grandparents, Gulfcoast Regional Early Childcare and Head Start Programs; as well as the Office of School Readiness "First Class" Pre-K. Parents are encouraged to participate in all parent and family engagement activities that occur in the system. The Alabama Parent Education Center also serves as an active partner with the LEA. The LEA will focus on providing select high schools with resources to support parents with high school transition and graduation.

The LEA ensures that all information is available related to school programs, meetings and other activities with a collaborative effort with the district ESL teachers, translators, Catholic Social Services, student support services Social Workers and parent leaders. The district also has access to TRANSACT for ESL families. The English Language division's Bilingual/Migrant Parent Specialist will provide additional assistance and support to migrant and English Language Learners.

The school district will provide parent program managers, parent organizers and school improvement specialists to provide technical assistance to all Title I schools to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to improve parent and family engagement. Local schools may fund parent organizers to ensure the implementation of effective strategies to improve parental involvement. The English Language division's Bilingual/Migrant Parent Specialist will provide additional assistance and support to migrant and English Language Learners. Parents may participate in the quarterly district parent advisory committee meetings and also request support for parental involvement through their local school, central office and/or email.

The LEA will solicit concerns from the district parent advisory committee and annual survey results to review and revise training for teachers and principals. Parents will participate as necessary in such training. Parents who have expertise in training areas pertinent to educators are encouraged to provide training to improve the educational experience of students.

The LEA would address the areas of greatest needs to support literacy training and provide necessary materials and resources for parents and identified schools to support their Parent and Family Engagement Program. Specifically to support the Alabama Literacy Act as necessary. Literacy materials for necessary literacy training will be purchased through Title I or local funds as necessary to ensure the availability of training and materials.

The LEA will provide funds for expenses related to child care and transportation to parent meetings, workshops and training to enable parents to participate. The LEA will include funds for such in the district budget to support parent and family engagement.

The school district will provide parent program managers, parent organizers and school improvement specialists with the guidance of the Office of Home-School -Community Engagement to provide training and support to encourage and enhance parent engagement. Local schools may also fund parent organizers to ensure the implementation of effective strategies train parents. The district parent advisory committee will also serve as a trainer of trainer model for Parent and Family Engagement.

The LEA will arrange school meetings at a variety of times, before, during and after school to maximize parental involvement and participation. The LEA will also consider other locations and Saturday events as well as "technological communications" i.e., Virtual platforms, Facetime, SKYPE, Conference Call, email and district communications to provide parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school the opportunity participate in a conference. Specifically during the necessary precautions established due to COVID-19. The LEA's Office of Home-School-Community program manager, district parent program managers and local school parent organizers will assist teachers and other support staff who work directly with participating children with in-home conferences as necessary (following COVID-19 precautions).

The LEA will implement the Dual Capacity-Building Framework (version 2) for Family-School Partnerships, a framework for designing family engagement initiatives developed from multiple research sources, that acts as a scaffold for the development of family engagement strategies, policies and programs. The LEA will provide professional development to support the Dual-Capacity Building framework as well as resources.

The LEA will establish a districtwide parent advisory council which will consist of a representative number of parents from each Title I school. The parents will participate in the decision making for the LEA which also providing feedback from schools regarding parent and family engagement and the Title I program as applicable. This council will also provide information to keep parents informed. The council will meet quarterly (virtually as necessary due to COVID-19) and as needed to represent the LEA. The website includes meeting dates, contact information and other information to keep all parents informed

The school district's Office of Home-School-Community Involvement will develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations, stakeholders and businesses to support parent involvement activities. The LEA and local school needs assessments determine the various roles developed for community-based organizations and businesses to support parent involvement. October is set aside as "Parent and Family Engagement" month, with statewide parenting day celebrated during this time, this serves as an opportunity to showcase one of the many collaborative efforts between the LEA, local schools and community-based organizations and businesses. Community and business partners will receive information regarding all activities so they can support and stay informed!

PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW

2020-2021

ESSA, Section 1112 (c)(6)

(6) PARENTS RIGHT-TO-KNOW-

(A) QUALIFICATIONS- At the beginning of each school year, a local educational agency that receives funds under this part shall notify the parents of each student attending any school receiving funds under this part that the parents may request, and the agency will provide the parents on request (and in a timely manner), information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teachers, including, at a minimum, the following:

(i) Whether the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.

(ii) Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.

(iii) The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.

(iv) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

(B) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION- In addition to the information that parents may request under subparagraph (A), a school that receives funds under this part shall provide to each individual parent—

(i) information on the level of achievement and academic growth of the student, if applicable and available, on each of the State academic assessments required under this part; and

(ii) timely notice that the student has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who does not meet applicable State certification or licensure requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher has been assigned.

(C) FORMAT- The notice and information provided to parents under this paragraph shall be in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS

William C. Foster, Ed. D., President - District 5
L. Douglas Harwell, Jr., V. President - District 1
Don Stringfellow - District 2
Reginald A. Crenshaw, Ph. D., - District 3
Robert Battles - District 4

In carrying out the Parent and Family Engagement requirements, to the extent practicable, the LEA and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

This LEA Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by an agenda and sign in sheets. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children .

MOBILE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
Federal and Special Programs
Executive Director, Belinda W. Roberts

Please call 251-221-5218 if you have any questions, comments or concerns regarding the Mobile County Public School System's 2020-2021 Parent and Family Engagement Policy.

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2020—2021

Home and School Partnerships

Staying Connected for Student Learning

Superintendent Chresal D. Threadgill

1 Magnum Pass, Mobile, Alabama 36618
251-221-4000

LEARNING TODAY. LEADING TOMORROW.

Mobile County Public Schools