

Miller County Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Policy

2020-2021
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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:

- (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 give participate and provide suggestions and ideas to improve this district parent and family engagement policy for the 2019-2020 school year. The notification for Parent Engagement sessions to develop the policy was advertised on the district website, Notify Me, reminder cards and flyers, facebook@millercountyschols and through collaboration with Family Connections Collaborative Network. During this meeting, parents also reviewed and discussed the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). The policy will be monitored and revised annually by the Family and Community Engagement Stakeholder group.

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 school district website or by submitting written comments to their student's school. All feedback received by July was included with 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, made available in the schools' parent resource center, distributed at the opening of the school year, and during new registrations.

Strengthening Our School

During the year, MCS family and community stakeholder group will meet once a month. 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.

Reservation of Funds

MCS reserves 1 percent from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in FY20 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.

Our Goals for Family & Community Engagement

- Welcome All Families and Community Members
- Communicate Effectively
- Support Student Success
- Speak Up For Every Child
- Build Relationships That Foster School Improvement
- Provide meaningful strategies that assist parents with understanding about their student's achievement





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 website (www.miller.k12.ga.us), [facebook@miller.k12.ga.us](https://www.facebook.com/miller.k12.ga.us), Notify Me electronic messaging, flyers, reminder cards to name a few. Onsite and online activities are provided. Our Parent Resource Center is open from 9-2 .

MCS' Family & Community Stakeholder's Group partners with the Family Connections Partnership. Meetings are announced monthly. Public participation is encouraged.

School Improvement Forums for SY 2021-2022 will be 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: [Click Here](#)
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 or live on the district website. [Click Here](#)

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.



Family Connections & 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 Family Connections and 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.

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.

MCS will also publish pages on the district and school websites information that will contain resources and materials, including parent guides, and other resources 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 its Title I schools to host informational sessions for parents.

MCS has established a districtwide Family and Community Stakeholder Group comprised of parent representatives from each Title I school 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.

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. In addition, MCS will host regional intra-agency collaboration through its Family Connections Partnership.

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 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.

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 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 25, 2019 and will be in effect for the 2019-2020 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.

