

Sumter County Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy for Shared Student Success



2020-2021 School Year

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What is Title I?

Sumter County Middle School is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.



SCHOOL POLICY FOR SHARED STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Sumter County Middle School will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. SCMS values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that SCMS will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

SCMS will involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practically possible. SCMS invites all parents to attend our Title I Parent Input Meeting during the spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, we also distribute an annual survey sent home in each student's Wednesday Courier and available online. All parent feedback received will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. Parents and family members can also give feedback during parent meetings and activities held during the school year. If the school wide plan is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, they may submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.

Who is it for?

SCMS strongly believes that parents are full partners in their child's education. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's learning by playing an integral role in the decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child. SCMS will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

Where is it available?

The plan will be posted on the school website and social media. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center and at our annual Title I Meeting.

2020-2021

District & School Goals

SCS' District and school academic goal is to increase the percentage of students scoring at the developing learner level and above by 4 percentage points in all core content areas by the end of the 2020/2021 school year as measured by the Georgia Milestones Assessments and/or Pre/Post tests.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACTS



As part of this plan, SCMS and our families will develop a school-parent compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the Title I Input Meeting event and the School Forum. The school-parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.



Join Us!

Sumter County Middle School will host workshops and events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Meetings for parents and family members will be held at flexible times to give all parents the opportunity to attend. Meetings will include:

Annual Title I Meeting

Come learn all about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be sent home in Wednesday's Courier, placed on our school's Facebook page, and sent through our school's communication system.

Freshman Orientation & Parent-Teacher Conferences

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff during open house and monitor your child's progress through scheduled Parent-Teacher Conferences and the use of Infinite Campus.

Curriculum Nights

Sample a little bite from the different areas of your child's academic courses.

Milestone Testing Tips

Come gain needed information about the Georgia Milestones Assessments. You will be provided with testing dates and tons of websites and links that your child can use at home to practice for the tests.

Title I Input Meeting

A forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions with the principal and staff regarding the schoolwide plan, parent and family engagement policy, school-parent compacts, and the family engagement budget.

Transition Meeting

What's next for me and my child?



PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

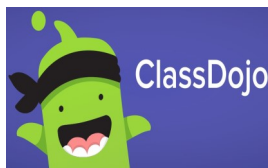
SCMS believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.

GET CONNECTED!



**CONTACT THE SCHOOL FOR
SET UP**



SCMS is Branching Out!

SCMS will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- ⇒ **Ensure** that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is communicated (to the extent feasible and appropriate) in family friendly language and provide necessary materials and handouts for parents during those events to help parents work with their child to improve their child's education.
- ⇒ **Provide** training to educate the teachers, pupil services personnel, principal, and other staff in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, to value parent contributions, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school.
- ⇒ **Ask** for parent input on staff training topics through input forms and the Parent Survey given out at the beginning of the year. At one of the staff trainings held during the year, a parent co-presenter is in attendance at a staff training to give parent perspective on parent involvement topics.
- ⇒ **Use** our partners in education and school community to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement policy. For example, coordinating activities with IDEA (Students with disabilities/Special Education). This is done to ensure that all parents have an opportunity to participate in workshops with topics relevant to their students.
- ⇒ **Partner** with college and career ready resources or organizations, or other programs (as applicable) to help prepare parents and their children for successful school transitioning.
- ⇒ **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.
- ⇒ **Collect** feedback from parents and family members at all Title I events and host parent input meetings in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.

Parent Resource Center

Come visit the Parent Resource Center to check out books, study materials, and activities to use at home with your child. Computers are available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and educational resources.

Monday – Friday, (8:30AM-3:30PM)