

Morgan County Schools

Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2017-2018



Bill Hopkins
Superintendent

Jackie Kinney
Director of Federal Programs

This policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents, family members, principals, teachers, district leaders, and community stakeholders whose children participate in Title I, Part A programs in the Morgan County School System.

Morgan County Schools
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
(Sec. 1116 (2))
2017-2018

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(A))

A. Describe how the Local Education will involve parents and family members in jointly developing the local educational agency plan under section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of section 1111(d).

A Title I Advisory Committee meets annually in the Spring to develop, review, and revise the plan. Invitations are sent to all schools, board members, parents, and other community stakeholders. The final product is then placed on the board agenda for approval and distributed to all parents of Title schools. MCS uses Annual Parent Survey Results and other feedback opportunities from meetings to report and provide information for any needed changes. All schools hold Annual Title meetings and report any needed information to the LEA. Parents are invited to attend all planning and developing opportunities for all plans and are encouraged to be an active and engaged tool in their child's education. Evaluations and feedback are strongly encouraged from our parents and all stakeholders.



Sec. 1116(a)(2)(B))

B. Describe how the Local Education Agency will provide the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build the capacity of all participating schools within the local educational agency in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education.

MCS will work with schools to ensure that school-level parental involvement plans meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA and to ensure that school-parent compacts are distributed to be consistent with 1118(d) of the ESEA.

MCS will, to the extent practicable, 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 ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and in a language parents understand. MCS has two full-time bilingual aides and also contracts with other individuals on an as-needed basis.

MCS will involve parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how funds reserved for parental and community engagement will be spent at the district and school level

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(C))

C. Describe how the Local Education Agency will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies under this part with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs.

When planning FP&C engagement activities at the school level, MCS will coordinate and integrate with ALL other relevant resources possible. Fall Survey results are used for planning at local schools and at the district level to serve, provide, and support any parent/family engagement needs as requested. Title schools use their parent teams to decide how the local parent engagement money will be used. When planning these opportunities, all funding sources are considered and budgeted.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(D))

D. Describe how the Local Education Agency will conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of all schools served under this part, including identifying:

(i) barriers to greater participation by parents in activities authorized by this section (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background)

A survey is conducted annually at all Title I schools. Survey results are used to evaluate the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy.

Parents are asked to identify any barriers to parental involvement and engagement that exist. Survey results are used to improve our parent and family engagement policy and to enhance our parent and family engagement activities. If barriers are identified, administration will work to address the issue. Communication will be in a language parents can understand, and all schools have access to translators/interpreters when needed.

(ii) the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers

A survey is conducted annually at all Title I schools. Survey results are used to identify specific needs that families have in order to assist their children academically. Schools host parental engagement activities where parents are provided information and materials to use at home. Parent conferences are encouraged, and all schools have Parent outreaches during October...parent engagement month.

(iii) strategies to support successful school and family interactions

Teachers are encouraged to have numerous and varied interactions with families. Teachers communicate regularly using e-mail, text messages, newsletters, phone calls, parent-teacher conferences utilizing the school-parent compact, and other means. All information is provided in a language parents can understand.

In order to build capacity for Parent and Family Engagement, the Local Education Agency will ensure effective involvement of parents and will support a partnership among the schools involved, the parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, the LEA shall:

G. Describe how it will 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.

In an effort to assist families in understanding State academic standards and assessments, MCS will:

- Encourage schools to have parent meetings at various times of the day to explain academic standards and assessments
- Provide assessment results in a language parents can understand, when needed
- Promote parent-teacher conferences where the School-Parent Compact will be utilized
- Send home progress reports and report cards as scheduled

H. Describe how it will 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.

Title I schools receive parent and family engagement funds. These funds may be used to purchase materials for families to use at home. The outcome of the Fall survey determines the allocation of funding. Information is sent home at the beginning of each school year about literacy training and the use of technology. Some schools hold technology workshops for parents if that is a need on the needs assessment.

**PARENT ENGAGEMENT
PARTNERING TOGETHER**

I. Describe how it will 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.

MCS communicates with all schools regarding the importance of parent/family communication and engagement. The LEA will promote and encourage the use of parent and family volunteers following a background check. Some form of parent outreach is scheduled monthly at each title school whether it be parent advisory, PTOs, meetings, etc. Sign-in sheets are kept on file at individual schools. Parents also participate in the annual title meetings both at the schools and the district.

J. Describe how it will 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.

Parent and family engagement is always a priority in the MCS. When planning parent and family engagement activities at the school and district level, all local, state and federal funds are considered and budgeted. Title schools have parent engagement money that their parent teams plan and budget along with other monies from other funding sources. All preschool programs are invited to attend events, and many times the funds are spent to build and maintain parent resource centers and parent supplies for family checkout to help their children.

K. Describe how it will 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.

To ensure that parents receive information in a language they can understand, Morgan County Schools:

*Utilizes TransACT for parent notices in multiple languages

*Employs two bilingual aides (Spanish) as well as contracted services with several individuals who provide translating on an as needed basis.

*Publishes an English and Spanish Student Handbook for grades K-12.

*New website can be translated in different languages

All home communication is sent home in a language families can understand.

L. Describe how it will ensure provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under this section as parents may request.

Parents are always encouraged to give input as to how to best enhance our parent and family engagement activities and resources. All requests are considered, and decisions are based on funding, needs assessment, and survey results. A parent's voice is always heard and encouraged throughout MCS.

M. Describe how the LEA may involve parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of such training.

When applicable, parents may be involved in developing educator training when a variety of perspectives are desired. Parents may be utilized to provide feedback that will be used to improve training effectiveness.

N. Describe how the LEA may provide necessary literacy training from funds received under this part if the local educational agency has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for such training.

Title I funds may be used for supplemental funding when all other funds have been exhausted.

O. Describe how the LEA may pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.

Title I funds may be used to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with transportation and/or child care when the needs assessment indicates that this is a barrier to parent and family engagement. If parents indicate a need, we will use funds; however, we have never had that request.

P. Describe how the LEA may train parents to enhance the involvement of other parents.

MCS encourages parents to get involved and support their child's local school. Parent outreaches through PTOs, family nights, and other activities have parents reaching out to other parents for involvement.

Q. Describe how the LEA may arrange school meetings at a variety of times, or conduct in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend such conferences at school, in order to maximize parental involvement and participation.

In an effort to reach as many parents as possible, schools offer meetings and training at a variety of times according to Fall survey results. Home visits are conducted as needed. We also use PACT and FACT, which are community resources, who provide assistance and will team with our school leaders for meetings and home visits.

R. Describe how the LEA may adopt and implement model approaches to improving parental involvement.

The LEA conducted a Beyond the Bake Sale Book study with school teams to help identify types of schools, various outreaches to parents, activities and strategies that could be used to improve parent involvement. These tools will be implemented as they fit each school's needs. The most effective seems to be any program or activity that the child is a part of for the event.

S. Describe how the LEA may establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in programs supported under this section.

A district parent advisory board meets annually. Members are invited by school principals and should represent the school demographics. The advisory board reviews the parent and family engagement plan and provides input on all matters related to parental involvement.

T. Describe how the LEA may develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses in parent involvement activities.

Community-based organizations and businesses are always solicited and encouraged to be partners in parent involvement activities. Our PACT/FACT workers already have networks in place with these agencies so that the needs of our students and families can be met quickly. We all work together to remove any barrier a parent/family might have that would inhibit them from participating or being a part of their child's education and any activities the child might participated in during the school year.

Sec. 1116(f)

U. Describe how the Local Education Agency will use the findings of such evaluation described in the section above (Sec. 1116(2)(D)) to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary the parent and family engagement policies described in this section.

An annual evaluation of the parent and family engagement policy will be conducted. Results will be compiled in order to make improvements to our policy and our activities according to evidence based results. The new policy will be printed in the student handbooks so that all parents have a copy in their hands. Parents receive copies in a language they can 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:

- Sign in sheets
- Compacts
- Agendas
- Handouts
- Brochures
- Invitations
- Flyers/Announcement
- Social Media
(websites/FB/twitter/etc.)
- Marquee

The POLICY/PLAN APPROVED BY:

**Superintendent of Education of Morgan County Schools, Bill Hopkins,
and Members of the Morgan County Board of Education on 10.12.2017.**

**Distribution will be to all parents of children participating in Title I
schools, Part A.**

Morgan County Schools:

Every child a graduate. Every graduate prepared to lead.

Mission

Every child a graduate. Every graduate prepared to lead.

Vision

*Morgan County Schools provides opportunities for all students and employees to excel in **learning**, establish strong **relationships** and foster positive **leadership**.*

Motto

Morgan County Schools...Start Here and Go Anywhere!



Morgan County Schools

Federal Programs Department

235 Hwy. 67 South

Decatur, AL 35608

256-309-2126 / 256-309-2127