

Lexington Park Elementary School
Title I
2023-2024 Parent, Family & Stakeholder Engagement Plan

2023-2024

ESSA requires that each school establishes requirements for parental notification and involvement in the development and implementation of their child's educational program to improve student academic achievement and school performance. The St. Mary's County Public Schools' Title I Parent Involvement Plan provides for compliance with all federal requirements and mandates, as defined by Public Law 107-110. The St. Mary's County Public School System Title I Parent Involvement Plan is aligned with the six goals of *Maryland's Plan for Family, School, and Community Involvement* as developed by the Division of Student and School Services of the Maryland State Department of Education, March 2003.

LPES Vision: Our vision is to empower ALL our students to persevere through every challenge and achieve academic greatness.

LPES Mission: Our mission is to provide a safe, positive, consistent, and engaging learning environment that ensures growth and success for all students. Through relevant and rigorous academics we create skilled, passionate, and lifelong learners. Panda Nation embraces and celebrates the diversity of all our staff, our learners, and their families.

Building upon the positive support of home and community partnerships and the Responsive Schools network, LPES will provide leadership that will instill in our students a set of social and emotional competencies—cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control—and a set of academic competencies—academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors.

In our school, children are first!

Goal 1: COMMUNICATION - Schools and families will communicate frequently and clearly about academic opportunities, school performance, student progress and our school-family partnerships.

School activities will include:

- **Parental Involvement Plan** - In collaboration with the Lexington Park Elementary parents and staff we reviewed and revised the Title I Parent Involvement Policy/Plan and School-Parent Compact on **April 20, 2023** at our spring School Improvement Team meeting held both in-person and virtually. At the beginning of 2023-2024 school year we will discuss and distribute the plan and ask for suggestions at our Back to School Bash Open House-**August 21, 2023**), and our virtual Literacy and Title I Program Review/Input Workshop (**October 13, 2023**). The Title I Parent Involvement Policy/Plan will also be posted on the Lexington Park Elementary School website.
- **Parent Involvement Calendar** –The **2023 -2024 Family Involvement Calendar** is attached.
- **Home/School Compact** – Will be distributed to families at our Open House (**August 21, 2023**), reviewed at the Literacy and Title I Program Review/Input Workshop (**October 13, 2023**) and discussed with parents at parent/teacher conferences (**October 10, 2023**).
- **Feedback** about our Parent Involvement Plan and Schoolwide Plan will be collected formally during biannual school improvement team meetings; additional feedback will be

gathered through other forms of communication such as parent surveys. Parent comments will be submitted to the Director of Parent and Family Engagement.

- **Communication Methods**-Lexington Park parents will be informed of statewide, local, and school events through Class DoJo, weekly School Messenger updates, monthly SMORE newsletters, LPES website, local media, and monthly classroom newsletters. We will work with the county, our ESOL teacher, sign language resources, and various websites to ensure that the information is provided in a language the parents understand. School staff will respond promptly and positively to parents' phone calls, letters, and visits. Title I funds have been used to purchase and install voice mail for the school. This will allow families to make contact with school staff outside of regular business hours. The Family Engagement Liaison paraeducator will provide parent and family resources and use the cell phone purchased through the Title I budget to maintain contact with parents.
- **School Report Card/Individual Student Report** - Each LPES parent will be provided with information detailing state academic content standards and assessments as well as the progress of the school and the level of achievement of the parent's child in each of the state academic assessments required under the law. Individual Student Report Cards will be distributed to student families four times during each school year. Parents may also log onto the Home Access Center to review student grades and progress at any time.
- **School staff training (August 17, 2023)** – School staff will participate in training to support effective communication and collaboration with parents. Training will involve parent feedback in determining training needs.
- **Open House- (August 21, 2023)** As a part of our Open House event, parents will have the opportunity to join the PTO, pick up school supplies, gather resources, be informed of their school's participation in the Title I program, receive a description of the goals and support provided by Title I, and the right of parents to be involved. Families will have the opportunity to tour the building, visit their classroom, and meet their child's classroom teacher, specialists, and other staff members(s).
- **Grade Level Curriculum Workshops- (November 14-18)** – At these events(both in-person and virtual), during American Education Week, administration and teachers will inform parents of their school's participation in the Title I program, a description of the goals and support provided by Title I, and the right of parents to be involved. Families will have the opportunity to meet their child's classroom teacher(s), learn about the grade level curriculum, understand homework expectations and routines, procedures and behavior expectations.
- **Teacher/Paraeducator Qualifications** – LPES parents have the right to request information concerning the professional qualifications of their child's teacher and qualifications of classroom paraeducators. (ESSA Requirement)
- **Parent Conferences** – LPES will offer parents the opportunity to participate in a parent-teacher conference, at least annually (**October 10, 2023**), during which the School-Family-Student Learning Compact will be discussed as it relates to the child's achievement. (ESSA Requirement)
- **Assessment Information Meeting for Parents (February 24, 2023)** Information regarding MCAP will be shared with families and will be directly connected to SMCPS reading and math curriculum.

- **Community Organizations:** Representatives of community agencies are invited to school to speak with families so that they are aware of support services in the community. The Center for Children, Walden-Sierra and Tri-County Youth Services Bureau all provide mental health services on site at LPES. We have established partnerships with the Bay District Fire Department and Lexington Park Volunteer Rescue Squad. We have a formal partnership with the Patuxent River Naval Air Station and we have many Navy volunteers who mentor our students.. We have an ongoing partnership with our local United Way organization who supplied snack-sacs for our most disadvantaged families throughout the school year. In addition, we received support from St. Mary’s Caring and St. Matthews Pentecostal Church who provide groceries each week for approximately 40 families.
- **Awards Assemblies** – Parents are invited to quarterly assemblies where students are recognized for Academic Improvement, Good Citizenship, and Excellent Attendance.
- **Schoolwide Reading Incentive Program** –Students will be required to read at school and at home. They will record the number of steps they read in increments of 15 minutes. Upon completion of a set goal, students will participate in monthly, quarterly, and end-of-year celebrations.

Goal 2: PARENTING - Schools and communities will work together to support families’ parenting skills and activities that prepare young children for school and promote ongoing achievement. School activities may include:

- **Parent Workshops** During the 2023-2024 school year, LPES will continue to offer both in-person and virtual workshops to accommodate family preferences. Since literacy continues to be a main area of focus, we will conduct two Literacy Parent Workshops (**Oct. 13, 2023, and May 23, 2024**), where families will engage in literacy activities with their children and learn about literacy curriculum expectations and how these expectations are reflected in SMCPs assessments and MCAP. We will use “parent-friendly” language to review strategies that parents can use while working with their children at home. Each family who attends will take home a book and their code for the IRLA eLibrary. LPES will also offer two Math Parent trainings (**February 24, 2024 & April 26, 2024**) where families will learn how to support their child’s math achievement and understand the expectations of SMCPs assessments and MCAP. Each family who attends will receive math resources to take home. On **April 26, 2024** we will host our Family Fun & Fitness Night where families learn about wellness techniques and participate in a variety of fitness activities. Additionally, we may hold workshops and sponsor speakers that address parenting and child-rearing skills, behavior management, gang and drug awareness, bullying, internet safety, nutrition and health, and child and adolescent development during the day. We will be inviting community organizations to these activities to enhance communication between the community, school, and families. Pre-K parents are invited to attend monthly meetings focused on nutrition activities paired with literacy. They are able to take home ideas for nutritious snacks and a book for their child.
- **Conveying Title 1 Information** At Open House, parent/teacher conferences, music concerts and Literacy and Math events we will inform parents of our school’s participation in the Title I program. We will provide them with a description of the goals and support provided by Title I, and the right of parents to be involved. Additionally, our school’s brochure provides information about our participation in the Title I program.

- **Parent Support** The Family Engagement Paraeducator and School Counselor will work collaboratively with parents to facilitate attendance to parent events. Meeting times for parent events will occur using a varying schedule to accommodate work hours and parent schedules.
- **Home Visits** – Home visits will be scheduled when there is a significant concern about absenteeism. Students with absenteeism concerns will be carefully monitored and supported both in our school Attendance Club and at home through home visits. When behavioral and/or academic concerns are evident and parents cannot be engaged through other means, a home visit will be conducted.
- **Parent Satisfaction Survey** – LPES shall conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement program in improving the academic quality of the school, including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents. (ESSA Requirement)
- **Puberty Programs** – Mother/Daughter and Father/Son programs are offered to families of fifth grade students in the spring(Dates TBD), to provide accurate information regarding puberty and physical changes.

Goal 3: STUDENT LEARNING - Families will support academic achievement at home by reading with children, helping them with homework, and engaging them in educational activities. School activities may include:

- **Home-School Compact** LPES will develop, in collaboration with parents, a School-Family-Student Learning Compact, that outlines how parents, the school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. (ESSA Requirement)
- **Parent Workshops** LPES will conduct two Literacy Parent Trainings (**Oct. 13, 2023, and March 23, 2024**), where families will engage in literacy activities with their children and learn about literacy curriculum expectations. We will use “parent-friendly” language to review strategies that parents can use while working with their children at home. Each child who attends will receive a book to take home. Each grade level will also offer two Math Parent Trainings (**February 24, 2024 & April 26, 2024**) to support families in helping their child learn mathematics. Each child who attends will receive a math manipulatives to take home. We may hold workshops and sponsor speakers that address parenting and child-rearing skills, behavior management, gang and drug awareness, internet safety, nutrition and health, and child and adolescent development during our Literacy and Math Evenings. We will be inviting community organizations to these activities to enhance communication between the community, school, and families. Pre-K parents are invited to attend monthly meetings focused on nutrition activities paired with literacy. They are able to take home ideas for nutritious snacks and a book for their child. Building upon the positive support of home and community partnerships and the Responsive Schools network, LPES will provide leadership that will instill in our students set of social and emotional competencies (ie cooperation, assertiveness, responsibility, empathy, and self-control) and a set of academic competencies (ie academic mindset, perseverance, learning strategies, and academic behaviors).
- **Parent Conferences** – LPES will offer parents the opportunity to participate in a parent-teacher conference, on **October 9, 2023** during which the School-Family-Student

Learning Compact will be reviewed as it relates to the child's achievement. (ESSA Requirement).

Goal 4: VOLUNTEERISM - Parents and community members will volunteer in support of school improvement and student success.

School activities will include:

- **Volunteer Solicitation** – Parents will be notified of the procedures for volunteering at LPES at the beginning of the school year at Open House, Parent/Teacher Conferences and Literacy Night.
- **Volunteer Log** – LPES will maintain a volunteer log that will be updated annually.
- **Volunteer Training** – LPES will provide training and support to ensure volunteers participate in a meaningful capacity that supports school improvement goals. This training, held both in person and virtually, is scheduled for **Thursday, October 6, 2023**.
- **Volunteer Recognition** – LPES will express volunteer appreciation to recognize school volunteers throughout the year and at an end-of year breakfast on **June 3, 2024**.
- **Volunteers for PBIS Activities** – Families will be invited to join in the celebration of student positive behavior.

Goal 5: SCHOOL DECISION MAKING - Parents, schools, and community members will collaborate on educational decisions that affect children, families, and school improvement.

School activities may include:

- **School Improvement Team** Parents will be invited to participate in the bi-annual School Improvement Team meetings (**November 16, 2023 and April 20, 2024**) including Title I school budget planning and decision-making (**April 20, 2024**). (ESSA Requirement)
- **Information Sessions** Parents will be provided with quarterly family engagement sessions on various areas of the curriculum, program and resources, (ie new math or reading resources, Maryland College and Career Ready standards and accountability testing, as outlined in federal requirements and guidelines under Title I, Title III, and IDEA at times and places accessible to family and community members as described in Goal 3.
- **School Events** Families will be highly encouraged & supported by all staff members to participate in school events.
- **Parent Involvement Plan** The plan will be posted on the LPES website and reviewed on Literacy Night (**Oct. 13, 2022**)

Goal 6: COMMUNITY COLLABORATION - St. Mary's County Public School System, including all Title I schools, will strive to collaborate effectively with The Maryland State Department of Education and local community organizations, agencies, and businesses to promote the academic achievement of all students and the success of all schools.

School collaborations and activities may include:

- **Community Organizations:** We participate in the Sheriff's Department National Night out and the NAACP Back-to-School Fair in August and representatives from our community partners will be invited to school to speak with families so that they are aware of support in the community and to offer resources at our Open House (**August 21, 2023**)

and all Panda Nation parent events. The Department of Social Services and Department of Housing will offer assistance with navigating their agencies. The Center for Children provides mental health services on site at LPES.

- **Recognition** - Our school will recognize the support of community/business partners publicly and/or privately the support of community/business partners.
- **Career Day** - The School Counselor will organize community workers and local businesses to present on careers in order to support students in making connections to their daily instruction. Additionally, the School Counselor will also work with grade level teams to embed career awareness/opportunities into their interdisciplinary units of instruction.

***See the attached Lexington Park Elementary Parental Involvement Policy and Calendar.**

Lexington Park Elementary Title I Budget & Coordination and Integration of Federal, State & Local Services

Coordination and integration of Federal, State, and local services and programs, including programs supported under this Act, violence prevention programs, nutrition programs, housing programs, Head Start, adult education, vocational and technical education, and job training. (Component 4)

The Title I budget resources are coordinated and braided through the support of the Department of Equity, Engagement, and Early Access to maximize the use of general, Title I, Title II, Title III, Title IV and Kirwin funding as described below.

- Our designation as a Community School and the needs assessment our newly appointed Community Schools Coordinator administers will provide us with valuable information and resources to further strengthen our families, student achievement, and school and community resilience through partnerships and braided services and opportunities.
- The Judy Center Hub at Lexington Park Elementary will continue to provide our families with many resources and opportunities including family engagement activities, play groups, case management, and parenting classes
- Family learning activities, support, services with our family engagement paraeducator, IRTs & administration collaborate to enhance and coordinate parent/community involvement
- Community partners, including but not limited to the United Way, Maryland Food Pantry, St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen, and St. Mary's College of Maryland provide services to both our students and their families
- Instructional Resource Teachers provide professional development and support for teachers to address reading and math instructional needs, increase student engagement and motivation, differentiation and teacher content knowledge
- The district Title I Office supports student, staff, parent, and family implementation of Conscious Discipline Self-Regulations Training.
- Literacy and math materials for students to have and use at home are provided by IRT's and content supervisors.

- University of Maryland Extension Services supports the Food Supplement Nutrition Education program which teaches children healthy ways to live and eat.
- The Pre-K Enhancement grant will provide additional paraeducator support for our Pre-K & K students.
- Professional Development is provided using Title I and Kirwan funds for staff to attend regional and national conferences to increase staff content knowledge and skills on equity, standard-based progress monitoring Responsive Classroom, and Conscious Discipline (virtual and in-person).
- Coordination of local and state funds with the Office of Safety & Security provides materials, support and a safety assistant at our school.
- Stipends are offered to staff for participating in professional development outside of the school day.
- Substitutes provide class coverage for teachers to participate in professional development.
- Meaningful and targeted activities are provided to engage families in the instructional program with their children.
- Student activities & field trips provide opportunities to increase real world experiences, student engagement and achievement.
- Student leadership opportunities are made available to increase student investment in school.