

School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Lee County Middle School West

2023-2024

August 1, 2023

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Lee County Middle School West receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Lee County Middle School West agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local educational agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parent and Family Engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- (C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Lee County Middle School West will take the following actions to 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 practicably possible.

-The school will hold a meeting or send surveys at the end of school and prior to school start to gather information from parents and to involve the parents in the planning process for Title I programs.

-The school will hold school council meetings and surveys throughout the year to disseminate information and obtain feedback on Title I (compact, family engagement plans, staff training ideas, and how the 1% shall be used) to plan, revise, and improve the programs.

-The school will hold an open house for parents to come in and talk with staff.

-The school will hold curriculum nights at least once per semester to provide information to parents and seek input from parents on Title I (compact, family engagement plans, staff training ideas, and how the 1% shall be used) to plan, revise, and improve the programs.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Lee County Middle School West will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

-After input from families, the school will hold a meeting on October 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM to discuss the nature of the Title I program. The parents will be informed of their requirements of Title I. The school will also go over the LCSS and LCMSW parent and family engagement plans as well as the school-parent compact and parent's rights to know.

-The parents will have an opportunity to review the school improvement plan and discuss how Title I programs fit into the school improvement plan.

-The school will provide child care for parents who need support during the meetings.

COMMUNICATIONS

Lee County Middle School West will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide with Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.

- 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.

-The school will hold information sessions or send out information before school starts, as well as, throughout the year, at various times of the day to give parents information and gain input about Title 1 programs and dates of upcoming events. This may be whole group discussion, virtual, face to face, social media, school website, or breakout sessions from a larger group.

-The school will hold an annual Title 1 night on October 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM to disseminate information on school-parent compacts and parent engagement plans.

-The school-parent compacts will be sent home with each student served through Title 1 programs.

-Parents are invited to join our school council organization, which meets quarterly.

-Information will be disseminated to parents with an opportunity for the parent to use a platform like Google translate, ParentSquare or a school translator to put information into a language that is understandable.

-Students enrolled from The Bridge, will receive correspondences and invitations to parental/family involvement activities. This will be sent to the facility.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Lee County Middle School West will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

- The parents, students and faculty partnered together to develop the compact for achievement. Teachers suggested home learning strategies, parents gave input on the types of support they needed, and students told us what would help them learn. Parents are invited to attend revision meetings in the spring or make suggestions on surveys throughout the year based on student needs and school improvement goals.

-The school will hold an annual Title 1 night on October 24, 2023 at 5:00 PM to disseminate information and the school-parent compact.

-School will share the compact as to how parents, staff, and students will partner to share responsibilities in academic achievement.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

Lee County Middle School West will take the following actions to involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent by:

-The budget for the 1% of Title 1 funds reserved for parent and family engagement will be discussed during the informational session before school starts and during the Title 1 nights. Throughout the year through surveys, and input from family engagement activities, parents will have the opportunity to present ideas to get other parents and families involved. The parents will have the opportunity to discuss how they would like the money spent.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Lee County Middle School West will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement 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 by:

- *All information received on federal, state and local programs is sent out through an ParentSquare, posted on social media, or website for the public.*
- *Many of these free resources posted on our school system website under the Federal Programs page. These are shown to parents throughout the year at family engagement activities.*

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Lee County Middle School West will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
 - The challenging State's academic standards
 - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
 - The requirements of Title I, Part A
 - How to monitor their child's progress
 - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child

-The school will hold multiple curriculum nights throughout the year to help parents understand how to help with homework, classwork, GA Standards of Excellence, GA Milestones Assessments, Title I part A requirements, and Federal Programs free resources in different subjects, including literacy and technology concerns.

-The school holds an open house with break out sessions to cover topics such as academic standards, assessments, how to monitor their child's progress, and how to improve their child's achievement.

-The school holds parent meetings to help monitor the progress of the child throughout the year.

-The school will meet with parents before the school year to address the curriculum and develop an academic plan.

-The school will invite parents to join the parent teacher organization and the school council to ensure the parents are aware of the activities going on throughout the year.

-The school will provide opportunities for members of the community to come in and speak to the students.

-The school will disseminate information and resources through parent and community newsletters, ParentSquare, social media, open house, parent emails, parent-teacher conferences, parent portal

-The school will host family curriculum nights, conduct campus tours, and make positive contacts to the homes of students.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Lee County Middle School West will provide training to 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 by:

-The school will assist teachers and other support staff with training on how to reach out to and build relationships with parents and members of the community. This will occur at least twice per semester.

-Topics will include: the value and utility of parents, how to reach out and communicate with and work with parents as equal partners, coordinate parent programs/activities which build ties between home and school, provide information in a language that all parents can easily understand, and respond to parent requests for family and parent engagement activities.

-Throughout the year, we will ask for parent assistance and input as to how best to work and train our teachers to work with parents as equal partners

Lee County Middle School West will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as parents may request by:

-The school will work to respond and reasonably provide support for any parent to engage in school activities by parent request and by offering input throughout the year on the improvement of parent and family engagement programs.