

Dodge County Middle School



2023-2024

Title I

Parent and Family Engagement Handbook

Mrs. Marcie Dennis, Principal

Revision Date 08-24-2023

A Parent's Guide to Title I



What is Title I?

Title I, Part A is a federally funded program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The purpose of Title I under ESSA is to ensure that **all** children have a fair, equal, and significant opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.

All Dodge County schools are Title I schools.

Dodge Primary School

Dodge Elementary School

Dodge County Middle School

Dodge County High School

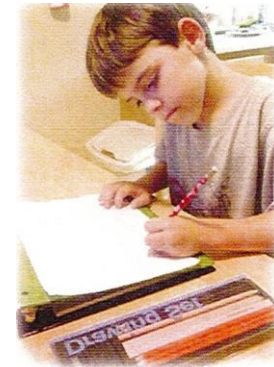
What supports are provided through Title I?

The Title I Program offers a variety of supports which may include, but are not limited to, additional teachers, support staff, instructional materials and supplies, technology to support student learning, tutoring, professional development for school staff and capacity building events for families.

What role does family engagement play in Title I?

Family engagement is an integral part of the ESSA law. Districts and schools receiving Title I funding must:

- Ensure that high-quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging State academic standards so that students, teachers, parents and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement.
- Afford parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.



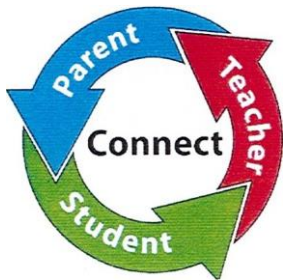
Families,

You can have a tremendous influence on your child's success in school. By partnering with the school and participating in the Title I program, you will:

- show your child that you support and value his/her education.
- be able to closely monitor your student's progress.
- build stronger relationships between home and school.
- provide valuable input about school-wide programs.

Research shows that students whose families are engaged perform better academically, socially and behaviorally. Be sure to become involved in your child's school by:

- communicating regularly with your child's teacher.
- attending academic-based family events and parent-teacher conferences.
- volunteering at the school.
- joining the School Council/PAC
- providing input concerning the Title I program at the school.



Dodge Middle School



Dodge County Middle School

THE CONNECTION

*Family-School Engagement Plan and Compact
2023-2024*



*Mrs. Marcie Jones, Principal
5911 Oak Street
Eastman, GA 31023*

www.dcms.dodge.k12.ga.us

Revision Date 8/23/2023

THE CONNECTION

What is it?

The Connection is a comprehensive document joining our School-Family Engagement Plan and Compact together with the purpose of strengthening the bond between school and home. **The Engagement Plan** describes how our school will provide opportunities to improve family engagement that will support student learning at school and at home. All students and their families are invited and encouraged to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. The school will provide information and as many opportunities as possible for the participation of all family members. **The Compact** explains what teachers, parents and students each will do in an effort to work together to make sure that our students reach grade level standards. The Compact is discussed with families during parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year.

How is it revised?

The Connection is jointly developed and revised by our school's stakeholders. All families are invited to attend our annual Shared Decision Making Meeting (SDM) held each spring. Families are asked to review and give feedback on the Engagement Plan, Compact, and budget, including the 1% set aside. All feedback forms from the SDM Meetings are collected, reviewed and used to revise this document and to improve program planning for the next school year. Families who are not able to attend the SDM Meeting have the opportunity to provide input by completing an online feedback form and completing the Title I Parent Satisfaction Survey that seeks suggestions regarding the plan, compact and budget.

Who is it for?

The Connection is for all students attending a Title I School and their families. We encourage and invite families to fully participate in the opportunities described in this document. Our school will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, of migratory children and caretakers of students served in Neglected and Delinquent Centers.

Where is it available?

The Connection is included in our Title I Handbook that is provided to all parents and families at the beginning of the year or whenever a new student enrolls. The Connection is also available on our school website and in our Parent Resource Center. Families can request a copy at any time during the school year.

What is Title I

Dodge County Middle School is identified as a Title I school as a 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 plan and compact.

Let's Stay Connected

Dodge County Middle School 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. Here are the ways to stay connected and informed.

- Progress Reports and Report Cards
- School Website
- Social Media (Facebook)
- School Messenger call-outs
- Emails
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- REMIND
- PowerSchool
- Newsletters

Access to Staff

- Our school has an open door policy. Appointments are preferred, as drop-ins may have to wait.
- All teachers and staff are available through email. See the school webpage for contact information.
- Conferences can be scheduled directly with your child's teacher or through the Main Office at (478) 374-6492.

ACTIVITIES TO BUILD PARTNERSHIPS

Dodge County Middle School plans the following events to build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement and to support a partnership among school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. Meetings and events are scheduled at various times and in different formats to accommodate the needs of our families. These events may be held in person or virtually.

Event	Focus	Date
Open House	Curriculum	July 31, 2023
Annual Title I Meeting	Informational	Oct. 12, 2023
PowerSchool Training	Technologv	September 2023
Literacy Event	Curriculum -Literacy	Spring 2024
21 st Century Parent Workshops/Events	Curriculum	Ongoing
Parent-Teacher Conferences	Curriculum	Oct.12, 2023 Jan.11, 2024 Mar.21, 2024
ESOL/Migrant Parent Workshops	Curriculum	Ongoing
School Council Meetings	SDM	TBA
Book Fair	Welcoming	November 2023
Parent Support Cafe	Welcoming/Curriculum	TBA
STEM Event	Curriculum	TBA
Milestone Testing	Testing/Assessment	March 2024
Title I Parent Satisfaction Survey	SDM	February 2024
Band Concert	Welcoming	May 2024
DCMS Pageant	Welcoming	Spring 2024
Welcome to D.C.M.S.	Transition	May 2024
Welcome to 9 th Grade/Indian Camp	Transition	July 2024
See You at the Pole	Welcoming	Ongoing
6 th -8 th Grade Programs/ Awards	Welcoming/Transition	May 2024
Athletics Awards	Welcoming	May 2024

Dodge County Middle School wants to help all our families participate in our family engagement activities. If you need assistance with childcare or transportation in order to attend the events listed in this plan, contact our Family Engagement Coordinator for more information and assistance.

Family Engagement

Our FEC is **Carla Jessup**. She is available to assist families in a variety of ways from finding resources, connecting with teachers and administrators, and providing opportunities for you to learn how to help your student at home.

Office #: 478-374-6492

Email: carla.jessup@dodge.k12.ga.us

Parent Resource Center

Visit the Parent Resource Center to get pamphlets, brochures, and other resource materials to use at home with your child.

Dodge Middle School's
Front Office Hours
Monday - Friday, 7:45 –3:45

Volunteer opportunities



- Families are encouraged to volunteer their talents at D.C.M.S. Opportunities include, but not limited to, School Council, PTO, and event volunteers.
- Parents are welcome to meet with their child's teacher with a pre-scheduled appointment to avoid any unnecessary disruption within the classroom.

Our Pledge to our Parents and Families

Dodge County Middle School will take the following measures to promote and support parents as equal partners in their child's education. In order to reach our goal of the highest quality of student achievement, Dodge Primary School pledges to support our students and their families as the foundation of the school. We will:

- *Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is published in both English and Spanish and posted on the website or on social media.
- *Provide training for staff on the value and contribution of parents, on ways to improve communication, on ideas to build strong partnerships with families, on providing information in a friendly format and on responding to parent requests four times during the school year.
- *Partner with early learning centers to provide resources to help prepare families and their students for successful school transitioning.
- *Share information/materials related to school and parent engagement activities, meetings and workshops in English and Spanish.
- *Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events through school messenger, social media, school website, newsletters and flyers.
- *Work with parents to develop relevant trainings and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- *Provide information for parents to better understand Georgia Standards of Excellence and assessments for all grade levels.
- *Collaborate with stakeholders and community/business leaders to increase awareness of family and community engagement programs.
- *Connect families to classes or support groups to help further enhance our parent's various educational levels.
- *Collect feedback from parents and family members after academic events in order to respond to parents' request for additional support for engagement activities.

2023-2024 District Goals

- ▶ Improve student achievement with rigorous and relevant instruction.
- ▶ Promote and contribute to a positive school culture and climate for all.

2023-2024 School Goals

- ▶ Increase the percentage of students reading on Grade Level.
- ▶ Increase the percentage of students performing on Grade Level in all subjects measured by the Milestones.
- ▶ Increase the number of parents actively engaged in their students' education.

All Grades

Focus Areas

- ▶ Computation
- ▶ Problem Solving
- ▶ Fluency/Comprehension

Our Compact: Teachers, Families and Students –Together for Success

DCMS will

- ▶ Provide a course syllabus
- ▶ Provide study guides and/or notes for exams
- ▶ Provide students with important dates for tests and projects.
- ▶ Invite parents to attend academic and other school events.
- ▶ Communicate with parents in a timely manner through phone, email, letter, etc.
- ▶ Provide access as well as consistent and up to date grades and attendance on Power School

Family will

- ▶ Review course syllabus.
- ▶ Assist students in keeping up with important dates for tests and projects.
- ▶ Ensure that your child is studying for tests and completing homework and projects.
- ▶ Attend academic focused events with your child.
- ▶ Respond to school phone calls, emails, letters, etc.
- ▶ Use Power School to keep up with student's grade and attendance.

Student will

- ▶ Complete assignments, projects, homework and study for tests.
- ▶ Take information and forms home and return in a timely manner.
- ▶ Keep up with grades and attendance on Power School.
- ▶ Attend academic events with parents.
- ▶ Ask for help from teachers as needed.

Title I Handbook Acknowledgement Form

Dodge County Middle School

Dear Families and Students,

For the 2023-2024 school year, our Title I Handbook is available for your viewing on our school website at www.dcms.dodge.k12.ga.us. The purpose of the Title I Handbook is to provide our families with detailed information regarding what it means to be a part of a Title I school. The handbook is also a critical component in helping to build a strong relationship between home and school.

TO BE COMPLETED BY SCHOOL PERSONNEL ONLY

Hard Copy of Title I Handbook was
given to this student:

Date: _____

Given By: (Teacher, etc.)

- Teachers please sign each form before sending home.
- When returned, keep forms in a folder in your classroom.
- Make sure there are 3 different signatures on each form

Please choose one of the following options:

_____ I will access the Title I Handbook on the school's webpage. I do not wish to receive a printed copy.

_____ I would like to receive a printed, hard copy of the Title I Handbook. Please send one home with my child.

School-Parent Compact Signatures:

School Representative Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

Student Name (print): _____

Student Signature: _____

Date _____ Grade _____

If you prefer to receive a printed copy of the Handbook, please indicate by placing an X in the space provided at the top of this page and we will gladly send one home with your child.

If you prefer to access the document on the school website, please indicate by placing an X in the space provided at the top of this page.

Additionally, we ask that you sign and date acknowledging access and agreement to the School/Family Compact and then return the form to your child's school.

THIS FORM NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.