

Information and Workshops

The Title I office and schools work together to offer a variety of district-wide initiatives and school-based family engagement workshops to improve student academic achievement. A sample of PFE events for the 2023-2024 school year are:

- Conscious Discipline Parent Workshops
- Conscious Discipline Staff Training
- Reading and Literacy Workshops
- Schoology Refreshers for Parents
- Character Tea Celebrations
- Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Parent Cafe (Judy Center Early Learning Hub)
- Virtual/In-Person Parent Information Nights
- PTA/PTO
- School Attendance Matters Initiatives
- Annual Title I Meetings
- Understanding State and Local Assessments
- Understanding State Academic Standards
- Monitor Academic Progress

Coordinating Programs

Title I coordinates and integrates parental involvement activities with other programs to meet the needs of our students and families. These partner programs include The Judy Center Early Learning Hubs, Concentration of Poverty Grant, St. Mary's Local Management Board Afterschool Programs, St. Mary's County Health Department, English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), and McKinney-Vento/ Homeless Services, Pre-K Expansion Grant, and additional community stakeholders.



St. Mary's County Public Schools

Department of Equity, Engagement, and Early Access

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2023-2024 Title I District Parent and Family Engagement Plan

SMCPS Title I



STRONGER TOGETHER

This plan was jointly developed by the Title I Office Staff, parents, and stakeholders. It is available on the SMCPS District and Title I School websites/offices, and local libraries. For more information, translated copies, or accessibility to resources, please contact the Director of Parent and Family Engagement at: cmwoodley@smcps.org or (301) 475-5511, ext. 32243

St. Mary's County Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, religion, or disability in matters affecting employment or providing access to programs.

Our Beliefs

St. Mary's County Public Schools (SMCPS) believes and recognizes the importance of a child's first teachers - their parents. To establish a collaborative partnership between the home, school, and community, the Title I District Parent and Family Engagement (PFE) Plan outlines the Title I grant requirements, strategies, practices, and programs to reach and involve all families and stakeholders. It is our mission to:

*"Know the Learner and the Learning.
Expecting excellence in both with rigor,
relevance, and relationships."*

What is Title I?

Title I is a federally funded program under the **Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESSA)** as reauthorized by the **Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA)**. Title I is intended to provide all children a fair and equal opportunity to obtain a high-quality education and reach at a minimum, proficiency on the Maryland Comprehensive Assessment Program (MCAP) and Maryland College and Career Ready Standards (MCCRS).

The restricted grant provides supplementary funding to improve the teaching and learning of children. Funds are used for programs that supplement and enhance resources that are supported by the SMCPS general budget.

SMCPS operates five (5) schoolwide Title I programs. Schools are identified by the percentage of Free and Reduced Meals (FARMS) students. Each Title I school must conduct a yearly Comprehensive Needs Assessment, that details school demographics, student performance and reform strategies. Parents have multiple opportunities to provide input on ways to improve the Title I program and meet parental needs. A jointly developed Parent and Family Engagement Plan (PFE) and the Home/School Compact are distributed to families in print and electronically during conferences, events, and in children's backpacks. Parents also have multiple opportunities to provide input for the practical uses of funds specifically for Parent and Family Engagement.

District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

The DPAC welcomes all parents and community stakeholders within a Title I school district to participate in quarterly meetings in person or via Zoom. Parental feedback and input on programs, instructional standards and service delivery methods enriches, empowers, and excites an educator's dedication to children. The 2023-2024 meeting schedule is posted on school websites, calendars, newsletters, and at: <https://www.smcps.org/eeea>.

The DPAC is facilitated by the Director of Parent and Family Engagement (DPFE) and composed of a representative group of parents/guardians from each Title I school. The council and district staff engage in meaningful consultation on the annual review of the content and effectiveness of the District Parent and Family Engagement Plan. The council also gives input on reserved Title I funds to support parent and family engagement activities.

Annual Parent and Stakeholder Survey

The DPAC meeting notes and suggestions are incorporated in the Annual Spring Survey that is distributed to parents, staff, and stakeholders. The survey is printed in English and Spanish and distributed via student backpacks. The survey is also accessible on websites and QR codes in newsletter and school flyers. The survey results are shared annually in June with parents, Title I administrators, the Chief of Equity, Engagement, and Early Access, and the Division of Instruction administrators.



YOUR VOICE COUNTS

Feedback is valuable information used to make important decisions. Use the QR Code above to provide your input.

Your District is Here to Serve

The district Title I staff work closely with school staff and within the community coordinating services to provide technical assistance for all stakeholders. They can serve by:

- Offering virtual or in-person assistance to better understand state standards and how to support student achievement
- Providing materials and workshops to support parents as they work with their children in the homes
- Facilitating professional development for school staff and leaders based on parent request and best practices for effective communication and connecting with families
- Coordinating the availability of information in a format and language that is understandable and accessible to parents and families
- Supporting schools during onsite family events held at various times and/or venues while providing district level materials/resources that support families.



Educational Equity

The Title I office wants to ensure every student and family has equitable access to a rigorous yet supportive learning environment. It is important that unique challenges are addressed, and accommodations are made to support physical and social needs.

To the extent practicable, the district and schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of homeless and migratory children. Translated documents are provided in English and Spanish, as well as other languages by request. Translation services and technology are also available.