

2023-2024

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

HONI SMITH, DIRECTOR OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

MORGAN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION | 235 Hwy 67 South, Decatur, AL 35603

Morgan County Schools
Parental and Family Engagement Plan 2023-2024 Overview
Title I, Part A– Every Student Succeeds Act (2015)

Morgan County School System is dedicated to creating strong partnerships between the schools, homes, and community members of Morgan County. This partnership encourages positive relationships between families and the schools' faculty and staff, leading to academic success for all students. However, Morgan County Schools also wants to address the social-emotional needs of our students through parental engagement. This plan was developed with the whole student in mind and ways to engage families constructively in the school community. This plan will be reviewed every year in the Spring at our Federal Programs Advisory Council meeting. All committee members are invited to attend and contribute to the plan. Families are encouraged to visit the school(s) and partner with them and the district to strengthen the mission of parental and family engagement for higher academic achievement and the social and emotional well-being of all children.

Parental Engagement

Each year, parents are invited to review and make suggestions for the Title I plan. They also have the opportunity to contribute to and develop the schoolwide plan. At the beginning of each school year, parents are given the opportunity to hear their rights as Title I parents and how they can be involved in the planning process. Every school receiving Title I funds conducts a survey to assess the needs of parents and families in the school system.

Morgan County Schools sets aside 1% of its Title I allocation for parental and family engagement. Of that 1%, 10% is allocated to system-wide initiatives, while the remaining 90% is divided among the eight Title I schools of Morgan County. The amount given to each school is based on the student population.

The Morgan County School System created a parental advisory committee with representatives from each school, the community, and district representatives. The responsibility of this committee is to create opportunities for parents to be educated on ways to holistically help their children, how the school system works, and to disseminate this information to other parents. The committee meets multiple times a year.

The goals of Morgan County Schools Parental Engagement Department are:

- Build a support system between parents and school employees to better advocate for the whole student.
- Create partnerships among schools, parents, and community members to work together to further student achievement and development.
- Empower parents with information on how to help their students achieve academically, socially, mentally, and emotionally.
- Embed parents and community members into the school community.

Goal	Activities	Persons Responsible	Desired Outcome
Build a support system between parents and school employees to better	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Workshops for parents and community members. ● Parental engagement 	Parental and Family Advisory Committee, Principals, Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Positive relationships with parents and community members. ● An advocate for all

advocate for students	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> nights Community outreach 		students.
Create partnerships among schools, parents, and community members to work together to further student achievement and development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum nights Informational videos Parent meetings Report cards and progress reports Opportunities for community members to come into the schools for programs 	Parental and Family Advisory Committee, Principals, Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Higher academic achievement for students and student morale. Active parent involvement in helping their children succeed. Active community member participation in sharing expertise and guidance to students.
Empower parents with information on how to help their students achieve academically, socially, mentally, and emotionally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Book studies Workshops Conferences 	Parental and Family Advisory Committee, Principals, Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Informed parents on how to help their students Happier parent and student relationships
Embed parents and community members into the school community.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent committees at each school Parent Resource Centers Facebook page/website on updates and calendar of events PowerSchool app School Status Communication App 	Parent and Family Advisory Committee, Principals, Teachers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parent/Guardian sense of belonging and support from the school community. Informed parents on what is going on in the schools and how they can be involved.

Under Title I, Part A, Section 1116 of Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each school served under Title 1, Part A, distribute to parents and family members of participating children, a written, district and school-level Parent and Family Engagement plan and the School-Parent Compact. Morgan County Schools Parent Plan will be made available to parents and families on the district website as well as shared during parent meetings.

This plan has been adopted by the Title I Parent Advisory Committee and the MCBOE and will be in effect for the 2023-2024 academic year. The school district will distribute this plan to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 31, 2023.

Parental and Family Engagement Plan 2023-2024 Board approved on Sept 19, 2023.

2023-2024

Parent and Family Engagement Written Plan (Sec. 1116 (2))

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, private schools, board members, parents, and other community stakeholders. The final product is then placed on the board agenda for approval and made available to all parents. 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 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 engagement 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 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 Parent and Family 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, the 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 the months of September and February.

(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.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(E))

E. 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.

A survey is conducted annually at all Title I schools. Survey results are used to evaluate the content and effectiveness of our parent and family engagement efforts and to determine if revisions are needed to our policies. Anything considered a barrier to parent and family engagement will be discussed and changed when needed. MCS continually strives to involve parents and our community. Evaluation of programs in the Spring will help drive direction for changes that need to be addressed and/or changed.

Sec. 1116(a)(2)(F))

F. Describe how the Local Education Agency will involve parents in the activities of the schools served under this part, which may include establishing a parent advisory board comprised of a sufficient number and representative group of parents or family members served by the local educational agency to adequately represent the needs of the population served by such agency for the purposes of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy.

Both the LEA and local schools will involve parents, family, and the community stakeholders to comprise the advisory board for the purpose of developing, revising, and reviewing the parent and family engagement policy. Local school parent teams meet several times each year, and the LEA teams meet in the Spring unless a called meeting is necessary.

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 and 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 on the needs assessment.

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, MCS:

- Utilizes TransAct for parent notices in multiple languages
- Employees two full-time 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
- All school websites can be translated to 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 childcare when the needs assessment indicates that this is a barrier to parent and family engagement. If parents indicate a need, we will use funds.

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. MCS also uses 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 will conduct studies with school teams to help identify types of schools, various outreaches to parents, activities and strategies that could be used to improve parent engagement. 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 parent and family involvement.

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

Community-based organizations and business 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 participate 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. Parent will 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
- School-Parent Compacts
- Agendas
- Handouts
- Brochures
- Invitations
- Flyers/Announcements
- Social Media (websites/FB/twitter/etc.)
- Marquee

• **The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children.** •

PLAN APPROVED BY (Person or Entity) _MCBOE_ • DATE OF APPROVAL _Sept. 19, 2023_