

Parent and Family Engagement

1. Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved. (Sec. 1116(c)(1))

The St. Clair County School System holds annual Title I meetings involving parents and leaders from all Title I schools. Steele Junior High School holds an annual Title I meeting to explain the entire process to students, parents and community leaders. Information from the Alabama State Department of Education is provided on Title I schools, Every Student Succeeds Act, the St. Clair County Title I Plan, Title I 1% Set Aside, Parental Involvement, School-Parent Compacts, and teacher qualifications. The annual Title I meeting for Steele Junior High was held on Thursday, September 3rd. The meeting was offered in the morning and evening to help accommodate parents. Translators were available for Spanish speaking families. A PowerPoint was presented and handouts were in English and Spanish. Notice of the meeting appeared on our school website and school Facebook page. Flyers were given to students to send home. It was also sent electronically on the principal's newsletter. All communication was corresponded in English and Spanish. Local school and Title I parental involvement funds will be used to purchase materials for parent meetings to improve student performance in the core content areas (i.e., Statewide Parenting Day, Math and Literacy Nights, and parent meetings focusing on specific topics). A set aside of 1% has been voted on by the parent council for newsletters, resources, and the parent-family liaison.

2a. Describe how there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement.

Steele Junior High School promotes parental involvement through the following: beginning of the school year orientation, open house, the school website, school newsletters, Family Engagement Nights, the school Facebook page, weekly classroom announcement sheets, Powerschool callouts and email. Meetings are scheduled at various times to accommodate parent needs. Parents, ACIP committee members, and PTO members all give input on the Title I Program. Parent meetings are held once a month in conjunction with PTO meetings. They are often scheduled in conjunction with assemblies in order to increase participation. Communication with the parents who wish to assist with the development of the yearly continuous improvement plan occurs in multiple ways. Official meetings, informal meetings, and electronic communications are several options available to parents to participate in the development, review, and improvement of the Title I plan. Steele

Junior High School will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement:- conduct parent conferences,- conduct the Annual Title I Parental Involvement Meeting,- conduct Statewide Parenting Day,- survey parents of their needs and offer training to address those needs,- conduct faculty meetings to discuss ways to consistently communicate with parents through newsletters, syllabi, grade level/department meetings- contact parents through email, telephone calls, newsletters, social media, and the website to remind them of scheduled meetings.- provide monthly newsletters to parents with academic and social help aids. Noting the necessity of family and parent engagement in improving student achievement, strategies to increase parental involvement are implemented. St. Clair County School System schedules parent meetings, conferences, and workshops to promote an understanding of student achievement requirements and family literacy development. An annual parent meeting is conducted to review each school's status, school assessment data, and federal requirements. Parent input is a vital component of the annual meeting. In the first Parent-Teacher Conference of the school year, parents and students are provided state and national test results from the previous year and review the School-Parent Compact. Every parent will be invited to meet with teachers. Teachers and administrators will make every effort to contact parents for conferences. Presently, the LEA does not receive adequate funding through Title I to transport parents and pay for child care expenses. However, meetings will be offered at various times to provide parents choices to attend meetings convenient to their schedules. All materials disseminated in the meetings will be purchased with Title I and local funds. The St. Clair County Title I schools vote to pool parental involvement funds for the common purpose of having a Parental Involvement Liaison. The Liaison provides for the individual community parental involvement needs.

2b. Describe how parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making).

Noting the necessity of family and parent engagement in improving student achievement, strategies to increase parental involvement are implemented. St. Clair County School System schedules parent meetings, conferences, and workshops to promote an understanding of student achievement requirements and family literacy development. An annual parent meeting is conducted to review each school's status, school assessment data, and federal requirements. Parent input is a vital component of the annual meeting. In the first Parent-Teacher Conference of the school year, parents and students are provided state and national test results from the previous year and review the School-Parent Compact. Every parent will be invited to meet with teachers. Teachers and administrators will make every effort to contact parents for conferences. Parents surveys are also administered yearly. This

valuable information is analyzed and the data is part of the CIP plan. Parents, community members, teachers, and students are all apart of the CIP team.

2c. Describe how funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school. (Sec. 1116(c)(2)(3)).

Local school and Title I parental involvement funds will be used to purchase materials for parent meetings to improve student performance in the core content areas (i.e., Statewide Parenting Day, Math and Literacy Nights, and parent meetings focusing on specific topics). A set aside of 1% has been voted on by the parent council for newsletters, resources and the parent-family liaison.

3. Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children. (Sec. 1116(c)(4)(A)(B)(C))

Steele Jr. High School provides information to parents during orientation, the annual Title I meeting, open house, information provided with progress reports and report cards,, monthly schoolwide newsletters, email, web announcements, Powerschool automated phone calls, Parenting Nights, the principal's report portion of monthly PTO meetings, student handbooks, and parent conferences. Information is provided in the students' home language.

4. Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated). (Sec. 1116(d))

The School-Parent Compact is developed and revised as needed by the ACIP committee which is comprised of teachers, students, and parents. The School Compact outlines how parents, the school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement and the means by which the school and parents build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. The compacts are explained to parents by the teachers during orientation and parent conferences. These compacts are kept in the individual classrooms. When meeting with EL parents, we provide interpreters and all forms/handbooks are given to the parents/ students in their native language.

5. Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan. (Sec. 1116(c)(5))

Parents or members of the public may express concerns about Steele Jr. High School's Continuous Improvement Plan or the LEA Improvement Plan at any time. They may do the following:-Contact the school administration-Contact the St. Clair County Federal Programs Director-Contact the St. Clair County Superintendent-Contact the St. Clair County Board of Education-Contact the State Department of Education Federal Program Section

6a. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall 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, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement.

Parents are viewed as essential partners in a student's academic success. Our school will provide training on student assessments, academic content standards, and how to monitor a child's academic progress to parents during the principal's moment portion of the monthly PTO meetings ,open house, and parent-teacher conferences. SJHS will provide additional information to parents through literature in our parent resource center and the monthly Home Connection newsletters developed and distributed school-wide by the St. Clair County parent involvement liaison, Anita Wilson. Requirements of Title I are included in the annual Title I meeting. During Statewide Parenting Day, Math and Literacy Nights, and other parent meetings, the local schools will provide training and materials to help parents work with their children to improve academic achievement, such as literacy training and using technology.

6b. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school 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.

The parental involvement liaison brings educational materials to school functions for parents to use when working with their children. The school sends home information regarding our Parental Involvement Program and the materials that are available at no cost to parents. Information/announcements regarding parent workshops on helping children succeed academically are provided. Our school has a Parent Resource Center for parents to visit. Steele Junior High School will provide assistance to parents and family members in understanding topics such as the following:- College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS),- state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,- grading procedures, and- strategies for monitoring their child's progress. SJHS will conduct individual meetings with parents to review the CCRS and grading procedures for each content area. Teachers will provide information regarding tools to monitor student progress (i.e., Powerschool Student Portal, progress reports, and report cards). Teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, the principal, and other school staff will become more proficient in communicating with parents through developing and presenting evidence-based strategies during Statewide Parenting Day, Math and Literacy Nights, parent meetings focusing on specific topics, and parent conferences. Communication between home and school will strengthen through these face-to-face meetings. Additionally, school personnel will continue to communicate with parents via phone calls, text messages, emails, social media, and the school website.

6c. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal 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.

Steele Junior High School uses school-parent compacts as a way to communicate the role of parents in their child's education. Progress reports are provided mid-

grading period and report cards are provided each nine week grading period. Newsletters are sent home monthly and placed on the school website. We hold yearly orientations before school begins to help parents understand the expectations for their child. We provide many opportunities for parents to volunteer in the classrooms and school-wide throughout the year. Teachers communicate with parents through weekly agendas, parent notes, phone calls, web pages, email and parent conferences. St. Clair County School System has a partnership with Head Start funded by federal, state, and local funds. To assist students and parents in the transition process from preschool to kindergarten, they will be invited to an orientation in the spring. A written list of suggestions, proficiency levels of academic standards and curriculum, and the registration process will be distributed to parents. Schools will have a "Kindercamp" during the summer to acquaint students and parents with school processes. Students and parents from area preschools and Head Start will be invited to the school for an on-site orientation and tour during the school year. In the fall, orientations are held by administrators to inform all students and parents of school rules, expectations, consequences, policies, and proficiency levels of academic standards and curriculum.

6d. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children. (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall 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.

Through the Title I program, the students of Steele Jr. High School are served through the Parent Involvement Liaison. The Parent Involvement Liaison attends school functions in an effort to meet and communicate with parents. Educational materials are distributed upon parent request. Parents will be reminded of scheduled meetings through phone calls, text messages, emails, newsletters, social media, and the website. TransACT will be used to communicate with non-English speaking parents. In some cases, parents may be afforded an interpreter during meetings to be funded by local funds.

6e. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children.

(See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.

Students and parents are given all materials and information in their home language. A bilingual aide is hired to assist migrant and Spanish-speaking families in Steele. Interpreters are provided for conferences, IEPs, and during school-wide meetings and assemblies. Steele Junior High School will provide assistance to parents and family members in understanding topics such as the following:- College and Career Ready Standards (CCRS),- state and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,- grading procedures, and- strategies for monitoring their child's progress. SJHS will conduct individual meetings with parents to review the CCRS and grading procedures for each content area. Teachers will provide information regarding tools to monitor student progress (i.e., Powerschool Student Portal, progress reports, and report cards). Parents who request additional support will be provided support by the local school and the central office when applicable.

7. Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. (See ESSA Sec. 1117(f))

EL teacher provides a translator for all parent-teacher conferences and other school functions such as Registration and Parenting Night. EL teacher and administration provide EL parents with limited English proficiency forms and documents in their language. TransAct (provided by the State Department of Education) is used for translation. Parent/guardians will be invited to attend meetings and conferences concerning their child through written communications, email, telephone invitations. Report cards are sent home to parents every nine weeks. Progress reports are sent home mid-grading period. Meeting times are flexible to accommodate the work schedules of our parents/guardians. Phone conferences with interpreters are held at parents request.