



**Michigan City  
Area Schools**

Opportunity ★ Excellence ★ Pride



## **District Office for Title I Services**

*making sure every student has a chance to make a difference in the world!*

2025-2026

### Title I Parent Handbook



### **Marsh Elementary School**

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401 E. Homer St.  
Michigan City, IN 46360  
219.873.2102  
Kerchell Rolling, Principal  
Amy Maesch, Secretary

# Parent Involvement Policy

Marsh Elementary School intends to follow the parental policy guidelines in accordance with Title I requirements as listed below. Marsh Elementary School will distribute this policy to parents of students participating in the Title I program and it will be updated periodically.

### **Policy Guidelines**

- Convene an annual meeting each year in August or September.
- Explain the requirements and the rights of the parents to be involved.
- Offer a flexible schedule of meetings (e.g. mornings and evenings).
- Involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way to plan, review and improve programs such as:
  - Parental involvement policy
  - School wide policy

### **Marsh School will provide the parents of participating students with timely information, including:**

- A description and explanation of curriculum to be used.
- The forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress.
- Proficiency levels that students are expected to meet.
- Quarterly parent meetings to involve parents in decision-making regarding educational programs and Title I documents.
- An annual parent conference with classroom teachers, to share grade-level expectations regarding Indiana College and Career Ready Standards.
- Materials and training on how parents can improve their child's achievement through family events or parent workshops that have speakers modeling literacy and math strategies to be used at home.

### **Marsh School will also:**

- Educate school staff on how to build ties between home and school through staff participation in monthly MESH (Marsh Elementary School and Home) meetings with parents and feedback collected from parent surveys.
- Ensure, to the extent possible, that information sent home is in a language and form parents can understand.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses and encourage partnerships with other elementary, middle and high schools.
- Respond to any parent suggestions or concerns as soon as practicably possible.
- Provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement at parents' request.

**Any comments indicating parents' dissatisfaction with the Marsh School Title I program will be collected and submitted along with the Title I Application for Grant to the Indiana Division of Compensatory Education.**



## Home – School Compact

*Our school family, made up of the principal, students, teachers, staff members, and parents, must work together to help students achieve high academic standards. We will create a welcoming, supportive, and nurturing environment at Marsh School.*

*We, as partners, sign below to show unity in our effort to support student success in school and in life.*

**As a student at Marsh Elementary School, I pledge to:**

- Respect others in our school family
- Come to school on time, ready to learn
- Do my personal best at all times
- Complete my assignments and homework

**As principal of Marsh School, I pledge that our school will:**

- Respect others in our school family
- Foster a safe and supportive climate that promotes learning for all students
- Communicate with parents about school programs, procedures, and activities
- Encourage parents to be active partners and involved in their child's learning
- Provide professional development that improves teaching and learning
- Distribute and Discuss the Compact annually with parents

**As a teacher and/or staff member at Marsh School, I pledge to:**

- Respect others in our school family
- Provide a classroom environment that promotes learning for my students
- Communicate with parents through conferences, zoom, apps, phone calls, "Tuesday Folders", written notes, and/or e-mail on an ongoing basis about student progress/concerns
- Have high expectations for all students
- Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction
- Make classroom decisions based on curriculum, Indiana CCR Standards, research, assessment, and best practices

**As a parent/guardian of a student at Marsh Elementary School, I pledge to:**

- Respect others in our school family
- Schedule a time for homework and give needed support to complete assignments
- Read with my child or encourage my child to read every day
- Ensure that my child attends school every day, prepared for learning
- Communicate frequently with the school and/or teacher about my child's progress
- Encourage my child to follow school rules and procedures
- Have high expectations for my child

We understand our roles and responsibilities and will work together to achieve them.

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Principal

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Student

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Teacher

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Parent/Guardian

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## Parenting Resource Center for the Family

**Indiana's Parenting Center** offers resources for parents and their children. When parents need to reach out for help/advice, resources are available. ParentingCenter.com is dedicated to helping families find parenting information. From family support to education, ParentingCenter.com offers advice for family and community. This website offers state-by-state resources. For information on Indiana's parenting resources please use the following link: <http://www.parentingcenter.com/state/indiana.html>



### What We Do

ParentingCenter.com provides many different resources surrounding your child's education, health and wellbeing, as well as resources for fun, family friendly activities in the area! The following are just a few of the areas that are covered on ParentingCenter.com:

- Many different educational tools
- Family support links
- Health and medical resources
- Family/Parenting Articles
- Child care resources

For more information please use the following link: <http://www.parentingcenter.com/>

### Sponsors:

- ❖ **YMCA** – *We Build Strong Kids, Families*
- ❖ **Ford Motor Company**
- ❖ **Eli Lilly**
- ❖ **Disney Mobile**

Additional information for parents, including school achievement data, is available on the **Indiana Department of Education Website**, [www.doe.in.gov](http://www.doe.in.gov). If you do not have internet access at home, your school will provide internet access, or you may visit the Michigan City Public Library.

If you have further questions concerning the Indiana Partnerships Center or parent involvement, please call your child's school or:

<b>MCAS District Title I Office</b> 408 S Carroll Ave Michigan City, IN 46360 219.873.2000	<b>Marsh Elementary School</b> 401 E. Homer St. Michigan City, IN 46360 219.873.2102  Kerchell Rolling, Principal Amy Maesch, Secretary	<b>Parenting Center.com</b> 904 N. Line Street Loogootee, IN 47553 812-295-8491 <a href="https://www.parentingcenter.com/">https://www.parentingcenter.com/</a>
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## Title I Parent Involvement Policy

The Michigan City Area Schools Board will follow the parental policy guidelines in accordance with the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the *Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015*.

Michigan City Area Schools Title I program provides all students with fair, equal, and meaningful opportunities leading to a high-quality education and increased student achievement and parent involvement.

### **Policy Guidelines**

1. Families will have an opportunity to review the School-wide Title I plan and make suggestions for improvement. MCAS will do this by assisting each Title I school:
    - In arranging annual Title I meetings that inform families of and provide time to make suggestions regarding:
      - Title I program goals
      - Instructional strategies and curriculum
      - Assessments used
      - Expected student proficiency levels
      - Provide parents with materials and training to improve their child's achievement.
      - Families' rights to request information about the qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals in their school. (Section 1119)
    - Annual meetings will be held at various times convenient for parent participation.
  2. MCAS will provide coordination, technical assistance, and other necessary support to Title I schools as they plan and implement effective parent involvement activities focused on improving student achievement and school performance by:
    - Providing training on how to build effective parent engagement activities focused on improving student achievement and relationships with families through various resources which may include:
      - PowerSchool training to navigate the site to obtain grades, attendances, schedule, and behavioral issues
      - Provide parents with technological information to guide them through the MCAS website as well as the communication portal, Peachjar
    - Recommending family literature and materials to enhance parental engagement in the home
      - Take-home books, academic materials, and other resources specific to their child's academic level
    - Supporting schools in developing a welcoming environment for parents.
      - Professional development focusing on developing positive family partnership and parental engagement for all staff
      - Continue to research best practices in positive parental engagement
    - Enhancing our external partnerships that support students, families, and staff
    - Ensuring that information is sent home in a language and format that parents can understand.
  3. In order to enhance the schools' and families' capacity to form a strong partnership and increase student achievement, MCAS will support each Title I school by:
    - Providing guidance to Title I schools in assisting families in understanding:
      - Indiana State Academic Standards;
      - Their child's progress;
      - How to work with educators to improve their child's achievement.
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- Encouraging teachers to create positive relationships with parents.
  - Scheduling parent/teacher conferences to support parents in understanding their child's progress
  - Encouraging schools to provide meaningful materials and information that promotes student achievement.
  - Providing opportunities for families to participate in district and school-level decision-making as it relates to their child
  - Coordinating and integrating Head Start, state-run preschool programs, and English as a new language instructional programs;
  - Ensuring that schools provide reasonable support for parent involvement as requested by parents.
  - Ensuring that parents are involved in revising the School-Parent Involvement Policy, Home-School Compact, and School-wide Plan.
4. Coordinate with Head Start and other community-based preschools to align our parental involvement strategies through activities to include but not limited to:
    - Kindergarten Round-Up and Kindergarten Countdown
  5. MCAS with parents, teachers, and principals will annually review the Title I program and the effectiveness of the Parent Involvement Policy.
    - In collaboration with parents we will work to:
      - Identify and minimize barriers which may limit family participation
      - Identify strategies that lead to more effective and increased family involvement and engagement in decision-making.
      - Collaborate and revise the District and School Parent Involvement Policies annually (section 1112)
        - Assist in developing and recommending suggestions for the district Title I Program. (Section 1116)
        - Collaborate in developing the Parent Involvement Policy.
  6. In collaboration with schools we will ensure that parents are involved in revising the school Parent Involvement Policy and Home School Compact annually.

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## Parents' Right to Know & Highly Qualified Teachers and Assistants

At the beginning of each school year, your child's school corporation will provide you (at your request and in a timely manner) information regarding the qualifications of your child's classroom teacher(s), including the following information:

1. Whether your child's teacher has met the State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade level and subject area in which the teacher is providing instruction.
  2. Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which the State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
  3. The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher, any other graduate certification for degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification for degree.
  4. Information on the level of achievement of your child in each of the State academic assessments.
  5. Timely notice that your child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks, by a teacher who is not highly qualified.
  6. Whether the student is provided services by paraprofessionals, and if so, their qualifications.
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Remember This:

- The notice and information provided to parents shall be in an understandable and uniform format and provided in a language that parents can understand.
- This information may be obtained at the beginning of the school year.
- The school corporation must provide this information in a timely manner at the parent's request.

A request can be made by contacting the District Office for Title I Services by phone:  
219-873-2000



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## Title I School-Wide Designation

All K-8 Michigan City Area Schools are Title I served schools and have received School Wide Plan (SWP) designation through the Indiana Department of Education. School faculty, staff and parents developed a plan to meet the ten components of the School Wide Plan at each of the district Title I Schools.

The Components of a School Wide Plan are:

1. A comprehensive needs assessment of the whole school.
  2. Implementation of school wide strategies that:
    - Provide opportunities for all children to meet proficient and advanced levels of student academic achievement.
    - Use effective methods and instructional strategies that are based on scientifically based research that:
      - Strengthens the core academic program,
      - Increases the amount of learning time,
      - Includes strategies for serving underserved populations,
      - Includes strategies to address the needs of all children in the school, but particularly low achieving children and those at risk or not meeting state standards,
      - Addresses how the school will determine if needs of those children have been met,
      - Is consistent with and is designed to implement state and local improvement plans.
  3. Highly qualified teachers in all core content area classes.
  4. High quality and on-going professional development for teachers, principals and paraprofessionals.
  5. Strategies to attract high-quality, highly qualified teachers to this school.
  6. Strategies to increase parental involvement, including:
    - 6a. A description of how the school will provide individual academic assessment results to parents.
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- 6b. Strategies to involve parents in the planning, review and improvement of the school wide plan.
7. Plans for assisting preschool children in the transition from early childhood programs such as Head Start or state-run preschool programs.
8. Opportunities and expectations for teachers to be included in the decision making related to the use of academic assessment results leading to the improvement of student achievement.
9. Activities and programs at the school level to ensure that students having difficulty mastering proficient and advanced levels of academic achievement are provided effective, timely additional assistance.
10. Coordination and integration of federal, state and local funds; and resources such as in-kind services and program components.

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## Title I Complaint Policy

### **What is a Complaint?**

A signed written statement that includes: 1) an allegation that a requirement related to Michigan City Area Schools has been violated; and 2) information that supports the allegation.

### **Who May Complain?**

Any parent, teacher, or other concerned individual(s), or organization(s) may file a complaint.

### **All complaints must:**

- Be written or typed;
- Be signed by the person or agency representative filing the complaint and include contact information;
- Specify the requirement of law or regulation being violated regarding the provision of Title I services and the related issue, problem, and/or concern;
- Contain information/evidence supporting the complaint; and,
- State the nature of the corrective action desired.

### **Complaint Procedure**

1. Receiving Complaints: Complaints should be formally registered with the Michigan City Area Schools Office of Title I located at 408 S. Carroll Ave, Michigan City, IN 46360
  2. Investigating Complaints: Upon receipt of the written complaint, the LEA will investigate the complaint within 10 business days.
  3. Resolving Complaints: The LEA will resolve the complaint within 15 business days.
  4. Appealing Complaints: If the LEA fails to resolve the complaint or fails to resolve the issue to the satisfaction of the complainant, the complainant can appeal to the Indiana Department of Education's Title I Grants and Support division.
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