

Develop jointly with parents and family members a School-Parent Compact (distributed at the first parent teacher conference).

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the School-Parent Compact.
- Revise, as appropriate, based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement.
- Recognize the compact involves parents and family members making a commitment to share the responsibility for their children's performance.
- Recognized the school, parents and family members build and maintain meaningful communication (in a language family members understand) to help the students achieve state standards.
- Offer professional development opportunities, virtually and/or in person, for teachers, administrators and other district employees to enhance the ability of schools to effectively service all students, parents and families.

Parent's Right to Know

Parents have the right to request information about qualification of teachers and paraprofessional (District) at the beginning of the school year.

If substitutes (not properly certified) service students for four or more weeks, a letter must be sent to parents explaining the current classroom status (Schools).



To provide feedback or get additional information contact Michelle Dunsford, Director, Office of Federal Programs at 843-488-7018. Phone calls to the District's Office of Federal Programs (if not answered) are returned within 24 hours of the next business day.

B 6.12.1



Horry County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or any other characteristic protected by applicable federal or South Carolina law in its programs or activities. For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policies call 843-488-6700, Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Rd, Conway, SC 29526.

Reviewed/Revised 05/14/25



Parent and Family Engagement Policy

**Whittemore Park Middle
School**

**500 El Bethel Road
Conway, SC 29527**

Phone:843-488-0669

Fax:843-397-0334

2025-2026

Our Parent and Family Engagement Policy

- Encourages, supports, and values the participation and involvement of parents and families in the educational experiences of their children that improve student academic achievement and school performance.
- Commits to developing family-friendly schools, offices and programs that welcomes parents and families to positive and supportive environment.
- Recognizes students learn best when families and schools work together, developing relationships of shared responsibility and mutual support.
- Assists parents in learning how home environments can support the academic achievement of students.
- Offers strategies such as parenting classes, home visitation opportunities and adult education programs to support parents.
- Provides special assistance to ensure that non-English speaking parents may participate as full partners in their children's education.
- Recognize parents, family and community members make valuable contributions to the educational process as participants in important school and district decisions.
- Encourages parents, families and community members to participate on a school committee that meets three times a year, to become members of parent organizations (at school and district level) and to serve as volunteers for classrooms, school and district wide activities. (Meetings or events may be conducted virtually and/or in person.)

Title I funds provide many opportunities for parent, family and community engagement

Involves parents, family and community members with joint development of the District Plan and in the Process of School Review and Improvement.

- Collaborate with community stakeholders at all levels of District and School Strategic Planning
- School-wide planning teams review the Schoolwide plan and provides input in revision, additions and deletions for activities and budget.
- Findings of the school's needs assessment will be utilized.
- Present Title I Program/Activities and requirements of Title I at parenting meetings.
- Schoolwide plans are presented to parents at annual meetings.
- *(Meetings may be conducted virtually and/or in person.)*

Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective Parent and Family Engagement Activities.

- Involve parents and family members in decisions regarding how funds are allotted for Parent and Family Engagement Activities.
- Not less than 1% of the Title I allocation will be reserved for Parent and Family Engagement Activities including family literacy and parenting skills.
- Not less than 90% of the funds reserved for parent and family engagement shall be distributed to schools for activities including education workshops and home visits.
- Provide training to school staff, administration and parents to strengthen parent involvement efforts.
- Provide a school counselor in coordination with mental health counselors for services such as individual and group counseling, home visits, character education and career education programs.
- Provide coordination for effective parent and family engagement through the School's Improvement Council (SIC).

Build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parent and family involvement

- Involve parents in planning of the Title I Plan.
- Provide parent conference opportunities.
- Provide family nights on literacy, math, assessments, monitoring children's progress, science, and state academic standards.
- Support and participate in volunteer programs.
- Encourage parents to observe in the classroom.
- Share results from Response to Intervention (RTI) team that identify and monitor children at risk.
- Sponsor Parent/Student orientation night.
- *(Meetings may be conducted virtually and/or in person.)*

Coordinate and integrate Parent and Family Engagement Strategies under programs, such as Babynet, Child Find and Parent-Child Home Program

- Developmental screenings are available for children from birth to age 2 1/2 years old. For more information or to schedule a screening appointment: Contact South Carolina Babynet at 1-877-621-0865. Developmental screenings are available for children aged 2 1/2 years old through 5 years old, not enrolled in a public school program. For more information or to schedule a screening appointment contact Horry County Schools Preschool Assessment Office at 843-488-6220.
- Home visits are available to families with children 16 months to 4 years old to strengthen the family and prepare children to succeed in school by increasing parent-child interactions. Contact the Parent-Child Home Program at 843-222-9959 for more information. Visits may be conducted virtually and/or in person.
- Parents and family members with children participating in these programs will be encouraged to become involved in all parenting activities.

- Horry County Schools provides two comprehensive Family Literacy Programs. The services include Adult Education, Parenting, Interactive Literacy Activities and Early Childhood.
- For information concerning early interventions for children and family literacy, contact 843-488-6230 for more information.

Involve parents and families in the activities of the school served under Title I, Part A.

- Schedule parent-teacher conferences at various times to accommodate parents' schedules.
- Provide Family Night Workshops.
- Encourage two-way communication between home and school through such methods as newsletters, email, phone calls, home visits, parent conferences, and surveys.
- (Conferences or workshop opportunities may be conducted virtually and/or in person.)

Conduct, (with the involvement of parents, family and community members), an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent and Family Engagement Policy that will determine the effectiveness of the present policy and any barriers to participation in parenting activities.

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the Parent and Family Engagement Policy through an annual survey conducted at registration and throughout the school year.
- Appropriate revisions are made based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement.
- Distribute the final (DRAFT) Parent and Family Engagement Policy to parents in the fall.
- Update the policy, as needed. Conduct annual review with parents, family and community members, school/district administrators and school staff members in order to continuously meet the changing needs of the school. Virtually and/or in person.
- Use the findings of evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement activities. Revise the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, as necessary.
- Provide frequent reminders, such as flyers, newsletters, telephone contacts, and email messages to parents and families concerning meetings, workshops and conferences.