School Parent and Family Engagement Policy
Calhoun Middle School
2025-2026

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Calhoun Middle School receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy, agreed on by such parents, that shall describe the means of carrying out the requirements of The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1116. Parents shall be notified of the policy in an understandable and uniform format and, to the extent practicable, provided in a language the parents can understand. Such a policy shall be made available to the local community and updated periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school. The policy establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parental and family engagement activities.

Calhoun Middle School understands that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents and families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- Parents and families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning
- Parents and families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
- Parents and families are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child

Calhoun Middle School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Calhoun Middle School will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school's parental involvement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

At the beginning of the year, Calhoun Middle School will hold its annual back-to-school night to inform parents of the requirements of Title I and the school's participation, as well as the parents' rights to be involved. The parents will have information through handbooks as well as brochures outlining the involvement they will have in their student's education.

B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS

Calhoun Middle School will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times for families, such as meetings in the morning or evening (for which the school may use Title I funds to provide transportation, childcare or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement).

C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Calhoun Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely way in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan.

At the beginning of the school year, we will meet with parents and other stakeholders. During this meeting, parents will receive information about the school's Parent and Family Engagement Plan and will be informed of their parental right to be involved in the planning and development of the plan through meetings, surveys, and questionnaires. If the program plan is not satisfactory to parents, they may submit comments on the plan to our principal, Dr. Richard Hearn (email: hearn@opsb.net). The revised plan will be sent home with students at the beginning of each school year and posted to the school's website.

D. COMMUNICATION

Calhoun Middle School will provide parents of participating children with timely information about programs under Title I, including:

- a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- forms of academic assessment used to measure student progress,
- achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards, and
- if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children, and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicable. Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities will be sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The Calhoun Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be sent home at the beginning of the school year and made available on the school website. It will also be discussed with parents during our back-to-school night event held at the beginning of the school year. The policy will be assessed each year based on the parent feedback and the responses to the parent surveys. Parents will be involved in planning, reviewing, and improving the policy through a yearly review. All parents will have the opportunity to participate in this review. Compacts are discussed during Open House, parent-teacher conferences, and as needed throughout the year. Families are notified of family programs and activities through school and class newsletters, flyers, school display monitors, the school's social media page, School Messenger, and robocalls.

E. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Calhoun Middle School will take the following actions to jointly develop with parents of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, school, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standard, and how the plan is used, reviewed, and updated.

Calhoun Middle School will hold an annual parent meeting at the beginning of the year to review and discuss any needed changes to the jointly developed school compact. This compact will outline how the entire school staff, parents, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact will describe not only the school's responsibility in providing high-quality instruction and curriculum, but the student and parent responsibilities for meeting and supporting the learning processes. The compact will address how parents have reasonable access to staff, receive frequent reports on their progress, and have the opportunity to volunteer and observe in the classroom.

F. BUILD CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Calhoun Middle School will build the parents' capacity for strong parental involvement to ensure effective involvement of parents and families and to support a partnership between the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Materials and training to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parental involvement
- Provide assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
  - the State's academic content standards,
  - the State's student academic achievement standards,
  - the State and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments,
  - the requirements of Title I, Part A,
  - how to monitor their child's progress, and
  - how to work with educators to improve the achievement of their children.
- Educate school personnel, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of the 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.
- Coordinate and integrate parental 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 to fully participate in the education of their children.

Calhoun Middle School will offer parent workshops on an as-needed basis. We will also continue to encourage parents to use our online resources found under the parent resources tab on our school website. All parents are encouraged to attend the district-wide Parent Advisory Council meetings, where they can get materials, training, and resources to help improve their child's achievement. We have also purchased brochures and other reading material to assist parents in supporting their child's academic success. These brochures and resources are located in our school's Parent Resource Center.

G. ACCESSIBILITY

Calhoun Middle School, in carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements of this part, to the extent practicable, shall provide full opportunities, for the participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members with 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.

Parent Volunteers will be asked to work within the community to garner support for events such as Family Nights, parent conferences, and various other parent events. Surveys will be sent out to parents to gather input from parents regarding topics of need and to identify barriers to parent participation. Parent workshops will be held as needed (interpreters will be available to assist with non-

English speaking parents and/or parents with disabilities) to encourage parental involvement in academia. Family and community members will be made aware of the training sessions through resources such as newsletters, use of the school marquee, media, the school website, and robocalls.