

Otwell Middle School

Parent and Family Engagement Policy
2025-2026
Revised: 5/2/2025

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Otwell Middle School
Title I School Wide Program
605 Tribble Gap Road
Cumming, GA 30040
(770)-887-5248

Title One Program: Otwell Middle School is identified as a Title I school as part of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Title I is designed to support state and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging state academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement policy.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement: This is a plan that describes how Otwell Middle School will provide opportunities to foster family engagement to support student learning. Otwell Middle School values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Otwell Middle School will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home. This plan is written in an understandable format and in a language that all parents can understand, and can be translated upon request. Staff will respond to requests for parent and family engagement activities to ensure student success. This policy is updated annually and revised based on input gathered from families during the spring input meeting.

Plan Development and Revision Process: The school parent and family engagement plan is used to meet the changing needs of parents and the school. Otwell Middle School invites all parents to give feedback annually through our surveys and input meetings in order to review and revise the parent and family engagement policy, as well as the Schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. Input is also sought online using our school website, social media, and parent email. Parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome throughout the school year. It is updated annually. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback. We also distribute a copy of the school parent and family engagement plan during parent conferences.

Formal Complaint Procedures: Parents have the right to file a written complaint regarding the Title I program or plan if they feel it is not satisfactory. The complaint form can be found on the Otwell Title I webpage. If no resolution is determined with local school staff or administration, the complaint will be forwarded to the district office.

Who Participates in the Title I Program: All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families as well as local community members are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Otwell Middle School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and migrant children. At our Annual Title I Meeting, held in August/September, parents are informed about the requirements and participation in Title I and parent rights.

Preventing Barriers in the Title I Program: Otwell Middle School may offer transportation, childcare services, and translation to encourage parent participation in all family engagement events. Please email Julie Pantea, at jpantea@forsythk12.org, if you need assistance in order to participate in our programs.

Goals for the 25-26 School Year:

District Goals:

During the 2025-2026 school year, Forsyth County Schools will increase the achievement score within the Closing Gaps component of the CCRPI by meeting the 3% target established in the baseline school year for each grade level band.

During the 2025-2026 school year, FCS will partner with higher education institutions and professional organizations to aggressively recruit high quality candidates for employment while continuing to develop FCS staff to retain high quality employees.

During the 2025-2026 school year, 17% of the schools in FCS will increase their school climate rating and 64% will maintain 5 stars.

School Goals:

The percentage of students scoring proficient or distinguished on the ELA GA Milestones will increase from 44.1 in May 2024 to 46.78 by May 2026.

The percentage of students scoring proficient or distinguished on the Math GA Milestones will increase from 44.84 in May 2024 to 47.57 by May 2026.

Otwell Middle School : Family Engagement Events

Otwell Middle will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family involvement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. The school will provide parents with a description and explanation of the school's curriculum. Parents will also receive a description and explanation of assessment used to measure student progress and proficiency levels that the students are expected to meet. Parents will be provided with student academic results and progress throughout the year in the form of grades, and parent teacher conferences as needed.

Otwell will offer meetings at various times of day and in different formats, such as virtual and in person meetings to encourage participation.

*All event dates are subject to change .

Semester 1

- Open House
- Curriculum Night
- Title One Annual Meeting
- Treat Street
- Parent Teacher Conferences - First Semester
- 8th Grade High School 101 Informational Session
- STEM Night
- Title I Literacy/Math Night

Semester 2

- WinterFest
- SpringFest
- Parent Teacher Conferences - Second Semester
- Elementary to Middle School Transition Night
- Parent Input for School Improvement and Planning
- Title I Literacy/Math Night

Reservations of Funds

Forsyth County Schools will reserve 1% from the total amount of Title I funds it receives in the 2025-2026 school year to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this policy. Throughout the year, families may complete surveys and give input as to how this Parent and Family Engagement Set Aside is spent at Otwell. Each year, input can also be given at the Spring Input Meeting. If you would like to give feedback or have any questions, please contact:

Julie Pantea , Student Support Coach,
770-887-5248 x 790504 or
jpantea@forsyth.k12.ga.us

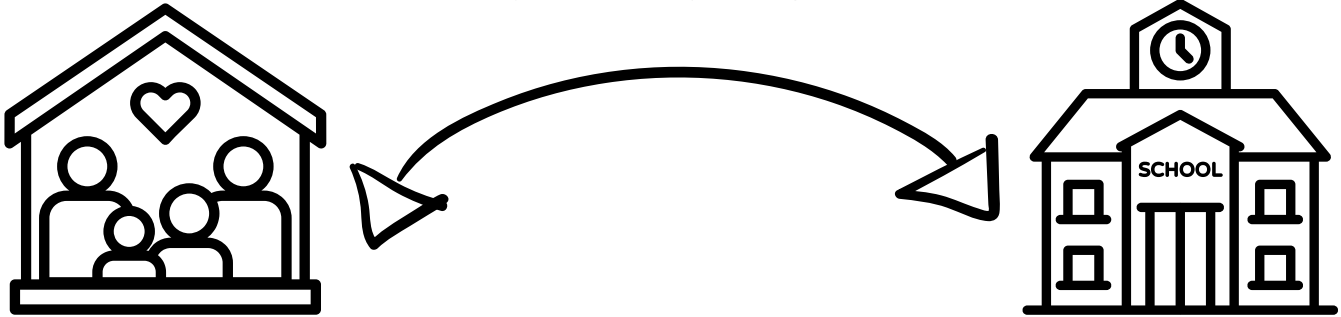
School Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Otwell Middle School and our families will jointly develop a school-parent compact, which explains how parents, teachers, and students will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. Otwell will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the challenging State academic standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the Title I SIP meetings.

Family Resource Room

We have a Family Resource Room that offers FREE academic resources for both students and parents to check out to use at home. We have academic resources for all grade levels. Please contact Julie Pantea regarding access to free academic resources.

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Otwell Middle School is a Building Bridge

Otwell Middle will take the following measures to promote and support staff, families, and students as vital partners to strength the school and reach our academic goals by achieving the following:

- Ensure that all information, including this policy, related to school and parent programs, meeting and other activities are published in both English, Spanish, and written in a language that parents can understand.
- Provide trainings for staff to implement and coordinate parent programs to build ties between home and school.
- Work with staff to develop strategies on how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners
- Train staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how utilizing parent contributions can support student learning.
- Partner with other schools and organizations to help prepare families and their children for school transitions and beyond. This includes students moving from 5th to 6th grade and 8th to 9th grade.
- Provide necessary materials and trainings for families to work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement with topics such as literacy, math, and technology including harms of copyright piracy.
- Offer informational meetings that will address helping families understand the curriculum and assessment as well as focus on strategies to use at home to promote academic progress.
- Provide families with individual student academic assessment results & interpretation of these results
- Include residential facilities within Otwell's attendance zone when sharing correspondence and encouraging parental involvement in school activities.
- Provide assistance to parents in understanding topics such as Georgia Standards of Excellence, Georgia Milestones, Title I Part A Requirements, strategies parents can use to support their child's academic achievement, and partnering with teachers to support their child's academic achievements.
- Work with staff to ensure that they respond to parent requests for meetings in a reasonable timeframe.