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% parent and family engagement set-aside, and the rights of parents involved. (Sec. 1116(c)(1))

Sweet Water High School will hold a parent meeting and inform parents of the school's participation in Title 1 and explain Title 1 requirements during the first semester. Parent representatives on the ACIP team give input and voice to the parent expectations of the school. Parents were also sent home parent information at the beginning of the school year in the School/Parent/Student compact. Parent information that is shared during the meeting is posted on the district website for all parents and stakeholders to review. Topics covered include the Every Student Succeed Act of 2015, Title Program information, Equity and Comparability, and Parents' Right to Know. Parents are also informed about the one percent Title I funds can be set aside to assist in addressing the effectiveness and content of the parental involvement plan in improving the academic quality of the Marengo County School System.

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.

Sweet Water High School will have two types of parental meetings: informational and collaborative. During both the informational and collaborative meetings, parents will be given information on the Title I program. These meetings will be held throughout the school year. Informational meetings will be held to provide new information to parents and will take the form of whole group meetings. Collaborative meetings will be held on an individual basis and will allow the teacher, parent, and student to form a partnership to increase student achievement and parental involvement. During both the informational and collaborative sessions, parents will be encouraged to participate in the PTO, Family Literacy and Math Nights, and CIP meetings. The PTO meets quarterly and parents, teachers, and students are involved in the continued planning, review, and improvement of the Title I programs. Parental involvement funds are used for parenting resources that are available to all parents of Sweet Water students. These resources are located in areas of the schools where internet accessible computers and other resources are available for parent use.

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).

PTO and CIP committees meet throughout the year and parents, teachers, and students are involved in the continued planning, review, and improvement of the Title I programs. This committee includes representation from the community from the different grade spans and special populations. Parents also participate in the Midyear Review process. They are interviewed to provide feedback on the school's goals and activities set forth in the school's improvement plan. Parents also complete Title I surveys to give input to the planning, review, and improvement of the Title I program at Sweet Water.

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

Parental involvement funds are used for parenting resources that are available to all parents of Sweet Water High School students. These resources are located in multiple areas of the school and are internet accessible and are available for parent use. The parent liaison/attendance officer is also funded through federal funds. This allows parents to have a direct contact concerning attendance and involvement in the school.

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))

As a Title I school, Sweet Water High School encourages parents to be involved in many different areas, and the lines of communication remain open between teachers, administration, families, and the larger school system. System-wide initiatives, like School Status, are used to communicate to parents, and this tool, along with Sweet Water's local campus use of Facebook, and the school website can broadcast general information to families, whereas PowerSchool grade portal, allow us to remain in close contact with individual students' parents and guardians. For individual students, we offer availability for parent-teacher conferences regularly, and offer Parenting Day with extended access hours to give parents and guardians an opportunity to get more in-depth information regarding their students' academic progress. Additionally, parents have the ability to obtain Right-To-Know information about the qualifications of their students' teachers. Utilizing school-wide diagnostic tools, such as mClass, iReady, AR, IXL ACT, and a rigorous RTI model, all students are monitored throughout the year. With easy-to-understand reports from these diagnostic measures, struggling students are identified and supported through teacher-led or specialist-led intervention and parent feedback. Students with IEPs have educational accommodations and progress is communicated often.

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))

We hold annual Title I meetings within the school community, have a Parent Advisory Council (comprised of parent representatives), and conduct parent surveys and interviews to identify areas of strength and weakness each year. In previous years, this allowed for parents and guardians to be actively involved in their child's classroom. Parents are also given suggestions for coordinating school-parent efforts and explanations of homework and grading procedures. The Student-Parent Compact outlines remaining responsibilities--namely prompt, two-way communication between families and the school. High expectations and strong relationships with families help to create the culture at Sweet Water that encourages student achievement.

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

Parents can submit comments about the CIP by contacting the Federal Programs Coordinator, Mrs. Kathy Pritchett, or by contacting Mrs. Lewis, the school principal. Mrs. Lewis conducted a Title I meeting where she encourages input, suggestions, and complaints from parents. That Mrs. Lewis notified parents and informed them that their input could be sent via phone calls, emails, or through a Google form.

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.

Pertinent school Information will be disseminated and training will be provided to parents during: Annual Title I Parent meeting for families to explain the Title I program and the rights of parents to be involved . The information shared at this meeting will assist parents and families in understanding academic content standards, assessments, and how to monitor and improve the achievement of their children. Parents are encouraged to be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I program. Open House and Meet the Teacher in which parents are invited to visit the classrooms of their children and to become acquainted with the teachers Parent-Teacher conferences on Parenting Day in

which teachers review data results and provide parents with suggestions on how to help their children improve academic achievement. Utilization of the school's website, School Status, social media, and weekly/monthly calendars to connect to families and keep them informed . Weekly newsletters provided by elementary teachers that detail what content will be taught during the week. Syllabi provided by high school teachers that provide parents with academic course details in a timely manner. Ongoing technology help on our school's website with detailed information and step-by-step videos for parents as well as students.

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.

Parents may schedule a time with the guidance counselor to visit and obtain parenting information. Some of these materials give advice and tips to parents to foster parental involvement in their child's education. Other provided materials include information for families on how they can find assistance in the local community for things they may need. We also make sure that we have computers available in both the library, the guidance counselor's room, and throughout the school that have internet access and are available during normal school hours for parent use. In addition, parents are sent home information every fall that explains how parents may get on the school's PowerSchool home portal to access their student's current grades. Parents also receive a password and information on how to access their student's Accelerated Reader account, so that they may monitor the student's participation in the program. Teachers, office personnel and other school staff are included in beginning of the year professional development. Parent and community involvement is highly valued at Sweet Water High School and all staff recognizes the importance of these stakeholders to the success of the school. Sweet Water High School will work with its teachers through inservices, faculty meetings, and PST meetings to inform and help them to understand the importance of parental involvement and that parents are our partners. Office personnel and staff members are included in meetings as needed. The CIP Committee places special emphasis on the need to ensure a closer connection between our school's identified goals and our parental involvement activities. This committee also monitors the compliance and encourages the goal of 100% participation in the parent-teacher collaborative conference.

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.

SWHS has an open door policy. We believe that parent involvement begins with great communication from home to school. The school uses a variety of communication tools. The school also offers specific opportunities for parents to meet and participate in their child's learning environment. A few of the opportunities are as follows: K4 Parent Orientation, Kindergarten Orientation, Parent Advisory Committee, Open House for PreK-12th grade, Title I Parent Meeting, FASFA Workshop, IEP Meetings, Literacy and Math Nights, PTO Meetings, Sporting events, teacher/parent conferences, Google Classroom and School Status.

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.

Sweet Water High School coordinates and integrates its parental involvement program with our Title I program through school-wide achievement initiatives and a parent resource center that supports parental involvement. Our CIP plan focuses on creating a climate of high expectations through partnering with parents and community members. Parents are also invited and encouraged to attend other school wide celebrations and events that help to strengthen the school studentparent relationship. Some of these activities include: Parent-teacher conferences, Open House, Grand Parent's Day, Homecoming, Fire Prevention Week,