



MILWAUKEE  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# School-Family Compacts

## What Is a School-Family Compact?

A School-Family Compact is a shared agreement that describes how parents, children, and the school will work together to support the child's learning. The School-Family Compact is conducted jointly with families at the school during the school's annual Title I Parent Meeting.

## How Do Schools Use a School-Family Compact?

Each school must upload a copy of its Compact to its School Improvement Plan. Beginning with the 2018-19 school year, the Department of Strategic Partnerships and Customer Service (SPCS) integrated the School-Family Compact into the School Improvement Plan. This was discussed at each school's School Engagement Council.

SPCS provides each school with facilitation guides, agendas, templates, and PowerPoint templates to help schools conduct Title I meetings. These templates are available in the Parent Coordinator Google Classroom. They can be customized by parent coordinators and school leaders, and they include facilitation tips for the School-Family Compact.

## How Is a School-Family Compact Developed?

A Compact has the following components.

- ▶ Describe the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables children receiving Title I services to meet the challenging state academic standards.
- ▶ Describe the parent/guardian responsibility to support their child's learning; volunteer in their child's classroom; and participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their child and positive use of extracurricular time.
- ▶ Address the importance of communication between teachers and parents/guardians on an ongoing basis through, at a minimum: parent-teacher conferences; frequent progress reports to parents; reasonable access to staff; opportunities to volunteer, participate, and observe their child's classroom; and regular, two-way, meaningful communication.
- ▶ Strategies families can use to support their child's learning at home.
- ▶ Compacts are discussed with parents/guardians and students during parent-teacher conferences. Teachers discuss the details of the teacher, parent, and student roles as outlined in the Compact. Feedback and requests for additional support are encouraged at any time.



## Acknowledgment Form

Every Title I school must develop a School-Family Compact. This agreement helps parents and teachers reach a consensus on the responsibilities that impact student achievement. The underlying assumption is that a student's academic success will improve when the home and school work together. Parents/guardians are asked to review and discuss the School-Family Compact with their child(ren). School staff, parents/guardians, and students are required to sign the Compact.

## Invite Input from the School Community

To maximize the impact of the Compact, schools are asked to promote and share the Compact with all students and families and invite input. Family input can be collected using multiple approaches, such as a Google Survey, school newsletter, school website, social media, and so on. Spread the word about the Compact and encourage families and students to review and provide feedback.

Keep track of the input provided, then pinpoint the most successful means of communicating the message of shared responsibility to increase engagement each year. Remind your students and families that the Compact is more than a piece of paper; it is an action plan to enhance the school and promote student success.

## Share Your School-Family Compact

Once the Compact is completed, a great starting point is to invite families, students, and staff to review it and give feedback. Try some of these ideas:

- ▶ Include the compact in the school newsletter
- ▶ Send copies home with students
- ▶ Send email/text messages to parents
- ▶ Post copies in the school
- ▶ Make the compact the focus of your back-to-school night
- ▶ Talk with families about the compact



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For questions or additional information, contact Darryl Hall in the Department of Strategic Partnerships and Customer Service at [halldl@milwaukee.k12.wi.us](mailto:halldl@milwaukee.k12.wi.us).