



# Sterlington Middle School

## School Parent and Family Engagement Policy 2026-27

### Welcome to Our House!

*In support of strengthening student academic achievement, [Sterlington 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 Students 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 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 several specific parental and family engagement activities.*

[Sterlington 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.

[Sterlington Middle School](#) agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by ESSA Section 1116:

### A. ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will conduct an annual meeting at a convenient time and encourage all parents and families of participating students to attend to inform them about the Title I program, the parents' rights and requirements, the school's Parent and Family Engagement Policy, the Schoolwide Plan, and the School-Parent Compact.

*During the first nine weeks of the school year, [Sterlington Middle School](#) will provide parents with information regarding Title I requirements and opportunities for parent involvement.*

## **B. FLEXIBLE NUMBER OF MEETINGS**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will offer a flexible number of engagement meetings at convenient times, including morning and evening opportunities, when possible. Title I funds may be used to support accommodations related to parent involvement activities.

## **C. JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will involve parents and families in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including:

- The Parent and Family Engagement Policy
- The Schoolwide Program Plan

Parents will receive information regarding the Parent and Family Engagement Policy and will be informed of their right to participate in the planning and development process through meetings, surveys, and/or questionnaires. Parents may submit comments or recommendations regarding the plan to the school administrator, Chantay Johnson, at [cdjohnson@opsb.net](mailto:cdjohnson@opsb.net). The policy will be posted on the school's website.

## **D. COMMUNICATION**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will provide parents of participating students with timely information about Title I programs, including:

- a description and explanation of the curriculum in use,
- forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress,
- achievement levels of the State's academic standards, and
- if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to provide suggestions and participate in decisions relating to their child's education.

The school will respond to parent suggestions and concerns as soon as practicably possible. Information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and activities will be provided in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, when practicable, in a language parents can understand.

At the beginning of each school year, the Sterlington Middle School School Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be made available on the school website. The policy will be assessed each year based on the number of participants, the number of volunteers, and the responses to parent questionnaires and/or surveys.

## **E. DISSENSATION PROCESS**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will submit parent comments or concerns regarding the Schoolwide Plan and/or Parent and Family Engagement Policy to the OPSB Director of Federal Programs if parents find the plan unsatisfactory.

Comments or concerns may be directed to:

Dr. Felicia Sledge-Murphy  
Director of Federal Programs  
Email: [sledge@opsb.net](mailto:sledge@opsb.net)  
Phone: 318-432-5330

## **F. SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will jointly develop with parents a School-Parent Compact that outlines how families, school staff, and students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement.

An annual parent meeting will be held to review and discuss revisions to the compact. The compact will describe:

- the school's responsibility to provide high-quality curriculum and instruction,
- the responsibilities of parents and students in supporting learning,
- how parents will have reasonable access to staff,
- ongoing communication regarding student progress, and
- opportunities for volunteering and participation at school.

The compact serves as a shared commitment among students, families, and school staff to support student success.

## **G. BUILDING PARENT CAPACITY**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement in order to support student academic achievement through the following activities:

- providing materials and training to help parents work with their children at home, including literacy resources and technology support,
- assisting parents in understanding:
  - Louisiana academic content standards
  - student achievement standards
  - state and local assessments
  - Title I requirements
  - how to monitor student progress
  - how to work with educators to improve student achievement
  - educating school personnel on the value of parent contributions and how to effectively communicate and collaborate with families
  - coordinating parent involvement activities with federal, state, and local programs, including preschool programs and community resources

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will offer parent workshops as needed and continue encouraging families to use online resources such as:

- OPSB website
- Teacher webpages
- OnCourse Connect
- Ouachita Parish Public Library ([oplib.org](http://oplib.org))

Additional parent resources and reading materials will also be available to support student learning at home. Parents will be encouraged to participate in the district Title I Parent Advisory Council and attend district-wide Parent Advisory Council meetings to receive additional training, resources, and support.

## **H. ACCESSIBILITY**

[Sterlington Middle School](#) will provide full opportunities for participation by all parents and family members, including those with limited English proficiency, disabilities, and migratory backgrounds. Information and school reports required under ESSA Section 1111 will be provided in a format and language that parents can understand whenever practicable.

Parent volunteers will be encouraged to support school events such as:

- field trips
- parent conferences
- parent advisory meetings
- parent and family engagement activities

Parent surveys will be conducted to gather input regarding family needs and barriers to participation. Parent workshops and engagement activities will be offered as needed, and interpreters may be arranged to support non-English-speaking families and parents with disabilities. Families and community stakeholders will be informed of engagement opportunities through:

- newsletters
- event flyers
- school marquee
- social media
- phone calls
- school website