2026-27 Annual Title I & Family Engagement Meeting

ROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

SEPTEMBER 3, 2026

DR. STEPHANIE WALLER

Last Revised 9/2/2026

Why are we here?

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each Title I school hold an annual meeting of Title I families in order to:
  - inform you of your school's participation in Title I,
  - explain the requirements of Title I, and
  - explain your rights as parents and family members to be involved.

What will I learn?

- What is a Title I school?
- What are my rights?
- What can Title I funds be used for?
- How does our school use Title I funds?
- What is the SIP?
- What are our schoolwide program goals?
- How is parent and family engagement funded?
- What is the Parent and Family Engagement Policy?
- What is the School-Parent Compact?
- What curriculum does our school use?
- What tests will my child be taking?
- How can I be involved?
- Who can I contact for help?

What is a Title I school?

- Title I was passed in 1965 under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). It is the largest federal assistance program for our nation's schools.
- Title I schools receive extra funding (Title I dollars) from the federal government. These dollars are used to:
  - identify students experiencing academic difficulties and provide assistance to help these students;
  - purchase additional staff, programs, materials, and/or supplies; and
  - conduct parent and family engagement meetings, trainings, events, and/or activities.

What can Title I funds be used for?

- In general, Title I funds may be used for:
  - additional paraprofessionals,
  - additional training for school staff,
  - extra time for instruction (before and/or after school programs),
  - parent and family engagement activities, and/or
  - a variety of supplemental teaching materials, equipment, and technology.

How does our school use Title I funds?

- In 2025-26, our school was allotted approximately $6 per child in Title I funding.
- We developed a **Schoolwide Program**, which means we plan to spend our funds on the following:
  - Supplemental staff:
    - **Paraprofessionals**
  - Programs/Materials/Supplies:
    - **IXL, Bridge tor Reading (Heggerty), TouchMath, Clickers, 3rd- 5th Grade Promethan Boards**
  - Teacher Professional Development:
    - **Kids First (Small Group), Clickers**

What is the SIP?

- The SIP is the School Improvement Plan. It includes:
  - the identification of the school planning team and how they will be engaged in the planning process;
  - a needs assessment and summary of academic and non-academic data;
  - prioritized goals, strategies, and action steps to help address the academic and non-academic needs of students;
  - teacher and staff professional development needs; and
  - budgets and the coordination of resources.
- The school must include family representatives on our school planning team.

Linda Wherry
Ms. Bobo
Lincoln Collins
Tory Dotson
Arnulfo Ayala
Skylar Clayton
Maria Sanchez

What are our schoolwide program goals?

Our goal is to work together with families to help every student grow academically, feel supported at school, attend regularly, and have the tools they need to be successful.

- **Improve student reading skills**
- **Improve student math skills**
- **Increase student achievement**
- **Improve attendance**
- **Strengthen family involvement**
- **Build positive relationships and support students' social and emotional needs.**
- **Prepare students for the next grade level**

What is our school's designation status?

- In accordance with Tennessee's accountability system, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) determines designations for all public schools. Designations include:
  - **Reward Schools:** Recognizes schools with high levels of performance or student growth, including the top 5% of schools.
  - **CSI (Comprehensive Support and Improvement):** Also known as Priority schools, these are identified for being in the bottom 5% of overall performance or having a graduation rate below 67%.
  - **TSI/ATSI (Targeted/Additional Targeted Support and Improvement):** Also known as Focus schools, these are identified when specific student groups underperform.

What is the State Report Card?

- TDOE releases an annual Report Card on Tennessee schools.
- This report displays state-, district-, and school-level data for each school year.
- It includes information on demographics, achievement, academic growth, attendance, graduation rate and more.
- You can view the data statewide, or you can choose a specific district or school.
- You can view the report card here:
  https://www.tn.gov/education/families/report-card.html

Ross Elementary School Letter Grade

Indicator	Level	Weight	Sco
Achievement	2	50.0%	1
Growth	3	40.0%	1.2
Growth for Highest Need Students	5	10.0%	0.5
College & Career Readiness			Not a
			Total

Calculation of School Letter Grade



Overall School Letter Grade

What curriculum does our school use?

- The Tennessee Academic Standards provide a common set of expectations for what students will know and be able to do at the end of a grade for each subject area.
- Tennessee's academic standards form the framework for everything taught at Ross Elementary School.
- For more information about Tennessee’s academic standards, see: Academic Standards

What curriculum does our school use?

ELA

- Wonders
-I-Ready
-Performance Coach

MATH

-Envision
-I-Ready
-Performance Coach
TCAP Success

SCIENCE

-Elevate
-ABC-Science

Resources

Khan Academy (K–12 & AP): Comprehensive, free video lessons and practice problems spanning arithmetic through calculus, alongside biology, chemistry, physics, and computer science. i4cp

PhET Interactive Simulations (Grades 3–12): Free visual simulations from the University of Colorado Boulder for experimenting with circuits, fractions, atomic structure, and motion.

Zearn (Grades K–8): High-quality, interactive math curriculum utilizing visual models, manipulatives, and real-world scenarios. Diamond Star Academy

Mystery Science (Grades K–5): Hands-on, phenomenon-driven video investigations and DIY experiments using simple household supplies.

NASA STEM @ Home (Grades K–12): Interactive activities, engineering design challenges, rocket builds, and virtual tours. i4cp

What tests will my child be taking?

- I-Ready Diagnostic
- District Tests (CFAs, Interim Assessment)
- Weekly Assessments, Common Assessments (Coach Created)
- Proficiency Level is Expected to be at **70% or however**

School Achievement Levels

Indicator	Achievement	Growth	Growth for Highest Need Students
	Level 2	**Level 3**	**Level 5**
Measure	Success Rate: 28.3%	Schoolwide TVAAS: 3	TVAAS Score for Highest Need Students: 5
Measure by Subject	ELA Grades 3-5: 26.2%	Literacy: 4	
	Math Grades 3-5: 30.2%	Numeracy: 3	
	Science Grades 3-5: 28.7%	Science: 2	
		Social Studies: Insufficient N Count	
Measure by Student Group	Economically Disadvantaged: 25.3%	Economically Disadvantaged: 3	
	English Learner: Insufficient N Count	English Learner: 5	
	Students with Disabilities: 7%	Students with Disabilities: 5	
Measure by Race/Ethnicity	American Indian or Alaska Native: Insufficient N Count	American Indian or Alaska Native: Insufficient N Count	
	Asian: Insufficient N Count	Asian: Insufficient N Count	
	Black or African American: 25.5%	Black or African American: 3	
	Hispanic: 39.7%	Hispanic: 5	
	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: Insufficient N Count	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander: Insufficient N Count	
	White: Insufficient N Count	White: Insufficient N Count	

Assessment Schedule

-Handout Provided

What is parent and family engagement?

- Family engagement is a **shared responsibility** in which schools and other community agencies and organizations are committed to reaching out to engage families in meaningful ways and in which families are committed to actively supporting their children's learning and development.
- Family engagement is **continuous** across a child's life and entails enduring commitment but changing family roles as children mature into young adulthood.
- Effective family engagement cuts across and reinforces learning in the **multiple settings** where children learn – at home, in pre-kindergarten programs, in school, in after-school programs, in faith-based institutions, and in the community.

Source: The National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (https://nafsce.site-ym.com/page/definition)

What is parent and family engagement?

- “Through effective communication with parents, teachers can have the greatest impact on their day-to-day success with students. With parents on their side, teachers can more effectively manage most academic and behavioral issues that arise. When the most important adults in a child’s life are working together, students benefit enormously.”

—Lee and Marleen Canter

Source: *Parents on your Side: A Teacher’s Guide to Creating Positive Relationships with Parents*

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- These plans address how the district and school will implement the parent and family engagement requirements of ESSA. Components should include:
  - how parents and families can be involved in decision-making and activities;
  - how parent and family engagement funds are being used;
  - how information and training will be provided to families; and
  - how the school will build capacity in families and staff for strong parent and family engagement.
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of these plans.

What is a Parent and Family Engagement Policy?

- The district Parent and Family Engagement Policy can be found here:
  - Home - Ross Elementary School - website http://ross-es.scsk12.org
- The school Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be shared on September 3, 2026 with a hard copy packet during the Title I meeting and will also be available online. In addition, the policy can be found here: http://ross-es.scsk12.org

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- Any district with a Title I allocation exceeding $500,000 is required by law to set aside 1% of its Title I allocation for parent and family engagement.
- Of that 1%, 10% may be reserved at the district for system-wide initiatives related to parent and family engagement. The remaining 90% must be allocated to all Title I schools in the district.
- You, as Title I parents and family members, have the right to be involved in how this money is spent.

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- In 2026-27, we received approximately $5000 in parent and family engagement funding. We plan to use these funds for:
  - Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events
    - Donuts with Dads September 23, 2026 10 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
    - Hispanic Heritage TBA Sept. 15- October 15th
    - Literacy Commitment K-3 & Parent University October 28, 2026
    - Parent University January 13, 2027 4:45 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.
    - Muffins for Moms/ Title One February 11, 2027 10 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
    - Math, Science, & ELA Night March 11, 2027 4:45 P.M. – 5:30 P.M.

  - Materials/Supplies
    - Flash cards
    - Book Giveaways
    - Website Resources
    - Food – Donuts, muffins
    - Literacy Packets

What is a School-Parent Compact?

- A school-parent compact is a written commitment that outlines how the entire school community – teachers, families, and students will share the responsibility for improved academic achievement.
- The compact must describe how the school will:
  - provide high-quality curriculum and instruction;
  - hold parent-teacher conferences, annually in elementary schools;
  - provide parents with reports on their child's progress;
  - provide parents reasonable access to staff.
  - provide parents opportunities to volunteer; and
  - ensure regular two-way meaningful communication between family members and staff, to the extent practicable, in a language family members can understand.
- You, as a Title I parent or family member, have the right to be involved in the development of the compact.

What is a School-Parent Compact?

- The school-parent compact will be shared on September 3, 2026 and is also available online at our school website:

http://ross-es.scsk12.org

What are the benefits of family engagement?

For students:

- Higher grades and test scores
- Better attendance
- More positive attitudes and better behavior
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater enrollment in postsecondary education

For Parents and Families:

- More confidence and trust in the school
- Increased confidence in their parenting skills
- Creates a home environment that encourages learning
- Encourages families to form stronger relationships with teachers and other families

For Schools and Teachers:

- Improved teacher and staff morale
- Higher ratings of schools and teachers by families
- More support from families
- Higher student achievement
- Increased and improved relationships within the community

How can I be involved?

- We need you! Research has proven that family engagement in education has more impact on student achievement than any other factor.
- To get involved with the SIP, (School Improvement Plan), please join our School Improvement Team meetings held on the **[The 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2:30 P.M.]** in person and on Microsoft Teams for the ones who can not attend in person. You can also review current goals and submit feedback through our quarterly SIP survey on the school website, or contact **[Ms. Kimberly Johnson, Front office Secretary]** at **[johnsonkn1@scsk12.org]** to learn more. We encouraged you to join the Site Based Decision Making Council Team
- To get involved with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy families are invited to attend our Annual Title I Planning & Review Meeting on **[The 2nd Tuesdays of each month at 8:00 A.M.]** to provide direct input and revision recommendations. You can also participate in the annual spring engagement survey distributed via **[email/paper packet].** To review current goals and submit feedback check out our website at https://ross-es.scsk12.org or contact our PLC coach at montaguems@scsk12.org (Mrs. Montague-Williams)
- To get involved with the School Parent Compact, families are invited to join our Teams Meeting held at the end of each quarter. To review current goals and submit feedback check out our website at https://ross-es.scsk12.org or contact our PLC coach at hudsontl@scsk12.org (Mrs. Tarsha Hudson)

How can I be involved?

- Ways families can be involved in the education of their student. Examples:
  - encouraging attendance;
  - monitoring grades and schoolwork on an online system or portal;
  - attending family events and meetings (see Calendar provided monthly);
  - observing or volunteering in classrooms;
  - joining family groups and committees (e.g., PTA/PTO, SBDMC); and
  - reading school/classroom newsletters or websites and that contain examples of learning activities families can do with students at home.]
  - Parent University

What are my rights?

- The families and parents of Title I students have a right, by law, to:
  - be involved in decisions made at both the school and district level;
  - be provided with information on your child's level of achievement on tests in reading/language arts, writing, mathematics, and science;
  - request and receive information on the qualifications of your child's teacher and paraprofessionals who are working with your child by asking for it in the front office and/or checking out the TNCompass website.
  - request opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions about the education of your child. The school is required to respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

What are my rights?

Parents Right to Know Notice (MSCS Title I)

As a parent of a student attending a Title I school, you have the right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of your child's classroom teachers and paraprofessionals.

Parents may request information regarding:

- Whether the teacher has met state certification and licensing requirements.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status.
- Whether the teacher is teaching in the field for which they are certified.
- The teacher's degrees, certifications, and areas of study.
- Whether paraprofessionals provide services to the student and their qualifications.
- Notification if a student is taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who does not meet applicable state certification requirements.

Parents should contact their school principal or the Memphis-Shelby County Schools office for additional information or to submit a request.

Who can I contact for help?

- For general questions, call the front office at**: [901-416-1990]**
- To reach the principal, Dr. Stephanie Waller, call: **[901-416-1990]**
- To reach the school counselor, Ms. Terrica Hamlett and Mrs. Shirley Lowery call: **[901-416-1990]**
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at: **https://ross-es.scsk12.org**

WE JUST WANT TO SAY…

THANK YOU!

Table Activity

- Partner with those at your table to discuss the following questions:
  - What form of communication works best for you? (e.g., phone calls, texts, emails, notes, face-to-face, etc.)
  - What kinds of information do you most want to receive from the school?
  - What might the school do differently to improve communication between school and home?

- Record your group's thoughts on chart paper.
- Be prepared to share!

Table Activity

- Partner with those at your table to discuss the following questions:
  - What are the strengths of your school and community?
  - In what ways are your school, families, and community working together effectively?
  - What might schools, families, and the community do differently to work together more successfully?
  - [Add other discussion questions as needed]
- Record your group's thoughts on chart paper.
- Be prepared to share!