2026 - 2027

Annual Title I & Family Engagement Meeting

A. Maceo Walker Middle School

September 15, 2026

Leslie Banks, Principal

09.15.26

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
  - 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 2026 – 2027, our school was allotted approximately $100,000 in Title I funding.
- We developed a **Schoolwide Program**, which means we plan to spend our funds on the following:
  - Supplemental staff:
    - Assistant Principals
    - Counselors
    - Educational Assistants
  - Programs/Materials/Supplies:
    - All – in – Learning
  - Teacher Professional Development:
    - All – in – Learning PD for teachers

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.

  Jessica Daniels

  Romanneck Branham

  Terrell Mitchell

What are our schoolwide program goals?

- **Improve Reading/ELA Achievement:** A. Maceo Walker Middle School - ELA, Grades 6-8: 8.8% to 46.4% (ALL); 1.7% to 32.0% (SWD); 15.4% to 33.4% (ELL).
- **Improve Math Achievement:** A. Maceo Walker Middle School - Math, Grades 6-8: 17.5% to 47.0% (ALL); 1.7% to 31.7% (SWD); 6.9% to 36.9% (ELL).
- **Improve Student Attendance:** A. Maceo Walker Middle School - Chronic Absenteeism: 35.7% to 20.0% (ALL); 38.6% to 22.4% (SWD); 25.8% to 8.2% (ELL).

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.
  - **School Designation Status:** A. Maceo Walker Middle School does not currently have a state designation.

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

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 A. Maceo Walker Middle School follows the **Tennessee Academic Standards**, which outline what students should know and be able to do at each grade level. These standards provide the foundation for instruction in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, science, social studies, and other subject areas.
- Our teachers use district-approved curriculum, instructional materials, assessments, and technology resources aligned with the Tennessee Academic Standards. Teachers also use student data to provide additional support, intervention, enrichment, and small-group instruction based on individual student needs.

- For more information about Tennessee's academic standards, see: Academic Standards

What curriculum does our school use?

- **English Language Arts (ELA):** Students use **Savvas myPerspectives** as a core instructional resource. ELA instruction focuses on reading and analyzing grade-level texts, citing textual evidence, building vocabulary, writing, speaking, and listening. Students also use **i-Ready Reading** for diagnostic assessment, personalized learning, intervention, and progress monitoring.
- **Mathematics:** Math instruction is aligned with the Tennessee Academic Standards and focuses on developing conceptual understanding, mathematical reasoning, problem-solving, and application of grade-level skills. **i-Ready Math** is used to identify students' strengths and areas for growth and to provide targeted instructional support.
- **Science:** Science instruction follows the Tennessee Academic Standards for Science. Students engage in grade-level instruction that emphasizes scientific thinking, investigation, problem-solving, and applying scientific concepts to real-world situations.
- **Social Studies:** Social Studies instruction follows the Tennessee Academic Standards for Social Studies and helps students develop knowledge of history, geography, government/civics, economics, and other grade-level social studies concepts.
- **Additional Academic Support:** Teachers regularly review information from classroom assessments, **i-Ready, district Common Formative Assessments (CFAs), Performance Matters, and TCAP** to determine what students have learned and where additional support is needed. Students may receive small-group instruction, intervention, tutoring, differentiated assignments, or enrichment based on their academic needs.
- Families can review Tennessee's grade-level academic standards through the Tennessee Department of Education – Academic Standards.

What tests will my child be taking?

- Throughout the school year, students at **A. Maceo Walker Middle School** take several types of assessments. These assessments help teachers understand what students have learned, identify areas where students may need additional support, and determine whether students are meeting Tennessee grade-level academic standards.
- **TCAP – Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program:** Students in grades 6–8 take the state-required TCAP assessments in the spring. TCAP measures how well students have mastered the Tennessee Academic Standards in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies, as applicable to their grade level. TCAP results also provide families with information about their child's academic performance compared with grade-level expectations.
- **i-Ready Diagnostic Assessments:** Students take i-Ready Diagnostic assessments in Reading and Mathematics during the school year. These assessments help determine students' current skill levels, academic strengths, and areas where additional instruction may be needed. Teachers use the results to plan small-group instruction, intervention, and enrichment and to monitor student growth throughout the year.

- **District Common Formative Assessments (CFAs):** Students take district assessments throughout the year in core academic subjects. These assessments measure students' progress toward mastering grade-level Tennessee Academic Standards. Teachers and school leaders analyze CFA results to determine which standards students have mastered and which standards need to be retaught or reinforced.
- **Classroom Assessments:** Teachers also use quizzes, tests, writing assignments, projects, Do Nows, exit tickets, and other checks for understanding to monitor student learning. These assessments provide teachers with immediate information that can be used to adjust instruction.
- **What Proficiency Level Is My Child Expected to Meet?**
- On **TCAP**, student performance is reported using four achievement levels:

  Level 4 – Exceeded Expectations: The student has exceeded grade-level expectations.

  Level 3 – Met Expectations: The student has met grade-level expectations.

  Level 2 – Approaching Expectations: The student is approaching grade-level expectations but has not yet fully demonstrated mastery.

  Level 1 – Below Expectations: The student has not yet demonstrated grade-level expectations.

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:**
- The Memphis-Shelby County Schools (MSCS) Parent and Family Engagement Policy explains how the district supports meaningful family involvement in Title I schools. Families can access the policy through the MSCS website, and copies may also be requested from the school.
- **MSCS Parent & Family Engagement Resources**
- The school Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be shared with families at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting and Open House and made available throughout the 2026–2027 school year.
- **In addition, the policy can be found here:**

  The A. Maceo Walker Middle School website

  Parent meetings and school events

  Printed copies available at the school

  School communication platforms used to share information with families

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 - 2027, we received approximately $4000 in parent and family engagement funding. We plan to use these funds for:
  - Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events
- **Annual Title I Parent Meeting/Open House** – Beginning of the 2026–2027 school year
- **School Improvement Plan (SIP) Parent Meetings** – Quarterly throughout the school year
- **Parent-Teacher Conferences** – Fall and Spring
- **Parent University/Family Academic Nights** – Throughout the school year
- **ELA/Literacy Family Night** – Families receive strategies and resources to support reading and writing at home.
- **Math Family Night** – Families learn strategies and activities to support grade-level mathematics at home.
- **TCAP Parent Information Night** – Spring 2027; provides families with information about TCAP expectations, testing procedures, and ways to help students prepare.

  - Materials/Supplies
    - meeting and event supplies, printing and copying, parent handbooks and informational materials, academic resources for families, reading and math materials for home use, supplies for family academic nights, technology-related resources when appropriate, and refreshments/food for eligible parent meetings and events when allowable under Title I guidelines.

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 with families at the Annual Title I Parent Meeting and Open House and made available throughout the 2026–2027 school year.
- In addition, the compact can be found here:
- **In addition, the policy can be found here:**

  The A. Maceo Walker Middle School website

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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, Families can help us develop, review, and improve our School Improvement Plan by attending SIP Planning Team meetings, Title I meetings, Parent University meetings, and other family engagement events. Parents may also provide feedback through surveys, questionnaires, and feedback forms. Your input helps us determine our school's academic priorities, goals, strategies, and family engagement activities.
- To get involved with the Parent and Family Engagement Policy, you can participate by attending Title I and parent meetings, completing parent surveys, reviewing the policy, and providing suggestions or recommendations about how our school can better communicate with and support families.
- To get involved with the School Parent Compact, parents can provide input during parent meetings, conferences, Title I meetings, and through surveys and feedback forms.

How can I be involved?

Encourage Daily Attendance: Make sure your child arrives at school on time and ready to learn every day. Contact the school when attendance concerns or barriers arise.

Monitor Grades and Assignments: Regularly check PowerSchool to monitor your child's grades, assignments, attendance, and academic progress.

Communicate With Teachers: Contact teachers when you have questions or concerns about your child's grades, assignments, behavior, or academic progress.

Check School Communications: Read school and classroom announcements, newsletters, messages, and information sent home with your child.

Keep Contact Information Updated: Make sure the school has your current telephone number, email address, and emergency contact information so you don't miss important information.

Other Ways to Get Involved: Attend Parent-Teacher Conferences, Parent University, Family Academic Nights, Open House, TCAP information sessions, and other school events; communicate regularly with your child's teachers; monitor grades and attendance; volunteer when opportunities are available; and participate in school committees and planning meetings.

- **Interested in participating?** Contact Information - Dr. Kevin Patterson, Family Engagement Specialist and Dr. Miss Thompson Gordon, PLC Coach and Building Testing Coordinator

Your voice matters! Working together, families and school staff can create a strong partnership that supports the academic success of every Jaguar.

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 To request this information, parents and guardians may contact the A. Maceo Walker Middle School main office or submit a written request to the school principal. The school will provide information regarding the educator's qualifications in accordance with federal Title I requirements.
  - 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

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Parents' Right-To-Know

All parents have the right to request the following:

- **A teacher's professional qualifications, which includes state qualifications, licensure, grade/s certification, waivers.**
- **A teacher's baccalaureate and /or graduate degree, fields of endorsement, previous teaching experience**
- **A paraprofessional's qualifications**
- **An assurance that their child's name, address, and telephone listing is not released to military recruiters.**

All parents will receive information on the following:

- **Their child's level of achievement in each of the state academic assessments**
- **Their option is to request a transfer to another school within the district if their child is the victim of a violent crime at school.**
- **Their right to timely notification that their child has been assigned, or has been taught for four or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified.**

NINGUN NINO SE QUEDA ATRAS

Derecho De los Padres de Familia a saber

Todos los padres tienen derecho a solicitar lo siguiente:

- **Las calificaciones profesionales de un maestro, que incluye: Calificaciones del Estado, Licenciatura, graos de la certificación, Renuncia a derecho**
- **El Bachillerato a Titulo de graduación del maestro, campos de especialidad, experiencia previa**
- **La calificaciones del profesional**
- **Garantia que los datos de su hijo como nombre, dirección, numero de teléfono, no se entregan a los reclutadores militares**

Todos los padres recibirán información sobre lo siguiente:

- **El nivel de rendimiento de su hijo en cada una de las evaluaciones académicas del estado**
- **Su opción de solicitar un traslado a otra escuela del distrito si su hijo/a es victima de un crimen violento en la escuela**
- **Su derecho a aviso con tiempo anticipado que su hijo/a ha sido asignado o ha estado bajo la enseñanza durante cuatro semanas consecutivas o más, de un maestro que no está altamente cualificado**

Revised May 11, 2022

Who can I contact for help?

- For general questions, call the front office at: 901-416-1030
- To reach the principal, Leslie Banks, call: 901-416-1030
- To reach the school counselor, Tosha Spears call: 901-416-1030
- To reach our family liaison, Kevin Patterson, call: 901-416-1030
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at: A. Maceo Walker Middle School

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