

SMS Parent and Family Engagement Plan - FY 2026

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% set-aside, and the right of parents involved. (Sec. 1116(c)(1))

Sparkman Middle School will hold an annual parent meeting during the first weeks of school. Parents will be notified of the meeting through Blackboard (schoolwide call system), school newsletter or email, via emails provided by the parents in PowerSchool, school website, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. An overview of the Title I program and its requirements will be discussed as we involve parents in the joint development of the plan and process of school review and improvement. We will explain the program and activities provided through Title I, federal guidelines, and the role of all parents in the education of their children. Parental input will also be solicited concerning the means by which the school and parents can form a partnership to achieve the program's objectives. There will be a review of the school, parent and student responsibilities stated on the School-Parent Compact.

Parents are informed at the meeting that Title I eligible schools must receive at least ninety-five percent (95%) of one percent (1%) of Madison County Schools' total allocation to implement parental involvement activities. Parents of these students are involved during the parent meetings in the decisions regarding how funds reserved will be spent for parental involvement activities. Additional meetings may be scheduled throughout the year to discuss the school wide planning process and progress.

Describe: 1) 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; 2) 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.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school. (Sec. 1116(c)(2)(3))

1) SMS offers face-to-face, virtual parent meetings via Google Meet at the parent's preferred time to accommodate working parents or the presentation of the Title I meeting emailed to the parent via the email address provided by the parent in PowerSchool. Our Title I program meetings will be offered the first of the month. Parents who are unable to attend can find a copy of the handouts on the school's website or parent newsletter at any time. An administrator will go over the requirements, distribute documents, and be available for clarification or questions.

These meetings will be promoted through Blackboard, Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, school newsletter, and school website announcements. Efforts will be made to inform all parents. Currently, there is not a need for childcare, as parents are welcome to bring their children if necessary. Home visits and transportation are based on individual requests and the needs of parents and children.

2) We have parent representatives on our schoolwide advisory committee who are active participants in the development of the plan. These parents also serve as our Community Advisory Group (CAG) members. In addition, all parents are given the opportunity to review the plan and offer their input before the plan is approved. For the parental involvement plan, parents are given surveys at the end of the school year seeking their input on activities, training, and materials that the school should offer to parents during the next school year. Each year, the schoolwide plan, including the parental involvement plan and compact, are reviewed, evaluated, and revised. Parent input regarding revision of the documents is encouraged as they are posted on the school website along with an email address for parents to send feedback to the school. The documents are also available in the school office for parents to review and comment. These responses as well as results of parent surveys are reviewed by the parent representatives and the entire schoolwide advisory committee in determining needed changes. We will also use surveys administered for the renewal process for Blue Ribbon Schools. This data will be important to address the needs of parents.

3) The Title I eligible schools must receive at least ninety-five percent (95%) of one percent (1%) of Madison County Schools' total allocation to implement parental involvement activities. Parents of these students must be involved in the decisions regarding how funds reserved will be spent for parental involvement activities. Funds are spent for printing and copying communication to go home to parents as well as hosting parent and family events at the school.

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))

SMS will provide parents with individual student results of state assessments and assist parents in interpreting the results. SMS will disseminate assessment data through test results sent home with student report cards and individual parent-teacher conferences when requested. Parents may contact teachers for a meeting to review and discuss student progress and formulate with the

teachers a plan for improvement. Information will be delivered in language native to parents utilizing Google Translate, Talking Points, and/or Language Link for translation or by use of a Madison County Board of Education employee who speaks Spanish. Staff members are available to answer parent questions at their own level of understanding regarding assessment as well as College-and Career-Ready Standards. A link to grade-level state standards will also be posted on the school website.

A meeting is held at the beginning of the school year to acquaint parents with curriculum, classroom standards, expectations to meet standards, homework policies, assessments, and proficiency levels that students are expected to achieve. SMS will provide opportunities for regular meetings upon request for parents to formulate suggestions, share experiences with other parents, and participate as appropriate in decisions relating to the education of their children and programs offered through Title I. Data is reviewed continually and a school needs assessment is compiled that identifies specific needs of students, staff, and parents of SMS. Reform strategies are established based on the identified needs. The schoolwide plan is revised annually to address the documented needs.

Describe how parents, 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))

A school-parent compact is distributed to students and parents during the first week of school. The compact outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student achievement, as well as the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards. The compacts will be discussed with teachers at faculty meetings. Each teacher will be given the responsibility to explain the compact to the students, and compacts may be referenced during parent-teacher and /or student-teacher conferences.

The compact is jointly developed with Title I parents as they have an opportunity during a Title I Parent Meeting annually to review the compact and provide suggestions for improving it. Feedback from the Title I parent survey is also considered as the compact is updated. Revisions are made before the compact is distributed to parents each August.

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

The school's Continuous Improvement Plan and an email address for parents to send comments

and suggestions for revisions or improvements to the school are posted on the school website and in the digital school newsletter. The plan is also available to parents for their review in the school office. Parent comments and suggestions will be considered by the committee when the schoolwide plan is revised.

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. (Describe)

The school will offer materials and training to develop a committed partnership with parents for the improvement of student achievement. Parents have the opportunity to express the need for specific training or resources. The school will provide information for using technology, as well as provide training to parents at the school on an as needed basis. Training will include accessing PowerSchool and our current learning management program to view teacher assignments/student grades in each class, accessing online materials to help students with homework, accessing teacher websites to find resources to support students at home with literacy and content skills, and accessing the parent newsletter on the school website. The media center will be available to provide parents access to computers and space for training.

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 in parental involvement.)

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. (Describe)

Sparkman Middle will continue to work with its teachers through formal and informal

professional development opportunities to discuss the importance of parental involvement and partnership. Teachers use Blackboard Communication, phone conversations, virtual or in-person parent meetings, and/or text communication to facilitate regular communication with all parents. Teacher web pages, social media, and parent newsletter are also utilized for faculty to send information to parents about events and student recognition programs.

All staff members including office staff, custodians, bus drivers, and CNP workers are expected to appropriately welcome parents to the school.

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 in parental involvement.)

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.(Describe)

Resource materials are available to parents through a digital hub linked on our social media platforms, school website and newsletter. These resources provide information for parents regarding community-based services and to aid parents in meeting their children's needs. The media center will be available to parents for use of computers with this information. The parent and family engagement liaison will also be available for a scheduled meeting to assist with resources. In addition, school-sponsored Little Free Libraries throughout the community will offer similar parent resource materials.

Parents of fifth-grade students at our two feeder elementary schools are invited to attend an overview of SMS. This event is held annually to introduce 5th graders to the expectations of middle school. Parents of upcoming 6th graders attend a meeting prior to the beginning of school. Students and parents have an opportunity within the first few weeks of school to tour the school, meet their teachers, and discuss procedures in place at SMS. Parents are encouraged to reach out to teachers to meet about their student's academic progress on an as needed basis.

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 in parental involvement.)

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. (Describe)

By utilizing Google Translate and Talking Points, the faculty and staff at SMS will send home communication written in a simple format in the parent's native language on an as-needed basis. Parent resources described above will be offered in the student's home language, as long as the resource is available. In addition, we have the support of an ELL teacher and Madison County Board of Education interpreter who serves the county and a staff member who speaks Spanish in our building. Language Link is another service that is used to interpret for parents with limited English proficiency. Every effort will be made to accommodate the language needs of all parents.

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 in parental involvement.) 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 such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)

The needs of parents will be determined through surveys that are sent out every spring, informal interactions, and observations. Every effort will be made to respond to training needs. Parents will be surveyed to determine their preferred times for parent meetings. Meetings will then be scheduled in response to the parents' stated preference and to the needs of working family members. The meeting schedule will reflect variety and flexibility.

Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. (See ESSA Sec. 1117(f))

In carrying out the parental involvement requirements, Sparkman Middle School will provide

opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, including providing written information in the parents' native language using Google Translate or Talking Points for translating, and including providing verbal communication with the assistance of our ELL teacher, a staff member who speaks Spanish, our Madison County Board of Education interpreter, or Language Link. Every effort is made to accommodate the language needs of all parents. Multiple modes of communication are offered to parents including email or letters for the hard of hearing. SMS is a handicapped-accessible building.