

Dodge County Middle School

2026 - 2027

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Compact

Dr. Jennifer Bellflower, Principal

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A Parent's Guide to Title I

<u>What is Title I?</u>	<u>What supports are provided through Title I?</u>	<u>All Dodge County Schools are Title I Schools</u>
<p>Title I, Part A is a federally funded program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The purpose of Title I under ESSA is to ensure that all children have a fair, equal and significant opportunity to obtain a high quality education and reach, at a minimum, proficiency on challenging state academic achievement standards and state academic assessments.</p>	<p>The Title I Program offers a variety of supports which may include, but are not limited to additional teachers, support staff, instructional materials and supplies, technology to support student learning, tutoring, professional development for school staff and capacity building events for parents.</p>	<p>Dodge County Primary School</p> <p>Dodge County Elementary School</p> <p>Dodge County Middle School</p> <p>Dodge County High School</p> <p>Dodge County Achievement Center</p>



A Parent's Guide to Title I

What role does Family Engagement play in Title I?

*Family Engagement is an integral part of the ESSA law.
Districts and schools receiving Title I funding must:*

Ensure that high quality academic assessments, accountability systems, teacher preparation and training, curriculum, and instructional materials are aligned with challenging state academic standards so that students, teachers, parents and administrators can measure progress against common expectations for student academic achievement.

Afford parents substantial and meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children.

Parent & Family Engagement



For Families:

You can have a tremendous impact on your child's success in school. By partnering with the school and participating in the Title I program, you will:

- Show your child that you support and value his or her education
- Be able to closely monitor your child's progress
- Build stronger relationships between home and school
- Provide valuable input about school-wide programs

Research shows that students whose families are engaged perform better academically, socially, and behaviorally. Be sure to become involved in your child's school by:

- Communicating regularly with your child's teacher
- Attending academic-based family events and parent-teacher conferences
- Volunteering at school
- Joining Parents/Teachers/Community (PTC)
- Providing input concerning the Title I program at the school



Dodge County Middle School



The Connection

Family - School Engagement Plan and Compact 2026-2027

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What is Title I?

DCMS is a Title I School as part of the ESSA. Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to the challenging State academic standards to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop with parents and family members a written parent and family engagement plan and compact.

The Connection

What is it?		
The Connection	The Engagement Plan	The Compact
A comprehensive document joining our School Family Engagement Plan and Compact together with the purpose of strengthening the bond between school and home.	Describes how our school will provide opportunities to improve family engagement that will support student learning at school and home. All students and their families are invited and encouraged to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. The school will provide information and as many opportunities as possible for the participation of all family members.	Explains what teachers, parents and students will do in an effort to work together to make sure that our students reach grade level standards. Discussed with families during parent-teacher conferences throughout the school year.

The Connection		
How is it revised?	Who is it for?	Where is it available?
The Connection is jointly developed and revised by our school's stakeholders. All families are invited to an annual Shared Decision Making Meeting held each spring. Families review and give feedback on the Engagement Plan, Compact, and Budget, including the 1% set aside for Parent Engagement. All feedback is collected and used to revise this document and improve program plans for the next year. Families also have an opportunity to complete an online Title I Parent Satisfaction Survey that seeks suggestions regarding the plan, compact and budget.	The Connection is for all students and their families. Our school encourages full participation in opportunities described in this document. We provide full opportunities for all parents to participate, including those with limited English, disabilities, migratory children and caretakers of students served in Neglected and Delinquent Centers.	Title I Handbooks are provided to parents and families via school websites, district website and in the Parent Resource Center located in the lobby of the school.



DCMS believes that family engagement means the participation of parents and family members in regular two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities.

Ways to stay connected and informed:

- Progress Reports and Report Cards
- PowerSchool
- School Website
- Social Media (Facebook)
- School Messenger Call-outs
- Emails
- Phone Calls
- REMIND
- Parent- Teacher Conferences
- Flyers
- Newsletters

Access to Staff

- ❖ All teachers and staff are available through email. See the school webpage for contact information.
- ❖ Conferences can be scheduled directly with teachers or through the front office at 478-374-6492.
- ❖ Meetings with teachers must be scheduled in advance to avoid class interruptions.

Activities to Build Partnerships

DCMS plans the following events to build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement and to support a partnership among school, parents and the community to improve student academic achievement. Meetings and events are scheduled at various times and in different formats to accommodate the needs of our families. These events may be held in person or virtually.

Event	Focus	Date
Welcome to 6th Grade-Warrior Camp	Transition	7/27/26
Open House	Curriculum	7/30/26
Title I Meeting	Informational	October 2026
PowerSchool Training	Technology	Ongoing
Literacy Night	Curriculum	Spring 2027(TBA)
STEAM Night	Curriculum	Nov. 2026
Parent-Teacher Conferences/PTO	Curriculum	10/16/2026, 1/14/2027, 3/18/2027
21st Century Parent Workshops/Events	Curriculum	Ongoing
ESOL/Migrant Parent Workshops	Curriculum	Ongoing
See You at the Pole	Welcoming	TBA
Book Fair	Welcoming	TBA
Parent Teacher Community (PTC)	Welcoming	Ongoing (TBA)
Parent Support Cafe	Welcoming/Curriculum	TBA
STEAM Event	Curriculum	Spring 2027
Title I Parent Satisfaction Survey (Input Opportunity)	Shared Decision Making	Available Spring 2027
Shared Decision Making In-person Meeting	Shared Decision Making	Spring 2027
Band Concert	Welcoming	May 2027
8th Grade Graduation	Transition	May 2027
6-8 Programs/Academic and Athletic Awards	Welcoming/Transition	May 2027

<i>Family Engagement</i>	<i>Parent Resource Center</i>	<i>Volunteer Opportunities</i>
Our Family Engagement Coordinator is Ashley Manning. She is available to assist families in a variety of ways from finding resources, connecting with teachers and administrators and providing opportunities for you to learn how to help your student at home.	Visit the Resource Table in the school lobby to get pamphlets, brochures, and other resource materials to use at home with your child.	Families are encouraged to volunteer their talents at DCMS. Opportunities include, but are not limited to, School Council, PTO, and event volunteers.
Ashley Manning Office # 478-374-3783 Email: amanning@dodge.k12.ga.us	DCMS Front Office Hours: Monday -Friday 7:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	<p>We love our volunteers!</p>

PLEDGE TO OUR **PARENTS & FAMILIES**

- *Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is published in both English and Spanish and posted on the website or Facebook.
- *Provide training for staff on the value and contribution of parents, on ways to improve communication on ideas to build strong partnerships with families, on providing information in a user friendly format and responding to parents in a timely manner.
- *Partner with early learning centers (Pre-K/Head Start, Local Daycares) to provide resources to help prepare families and students for successful school transitions.
- *Share information related to school and parent engagement activities, meetings, workshops in English and Spanish.
- *Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school wide events through messenger, Facebook, school website, newsletters and flyers.
- *Work with parents to develop relevant training and helpful presentations to educate our staff on the importance of parent and family engagement and how to support student learning.
- *Provide information for parents to better understand the GA Standards of Excellence and assessments for all grade levels.
- *Collaborate with stakeholders and community business leaders to increase awareness of family and community engagement programs.
- *Connect families to classes or support groups to help further enhance our parents' various educational levels.
- *Collect feedback from parents and family members after academic events in order to respond to parents' requests for additional support for engagement activities.

2026-2027 GOALS

<i>District</i>	<i>DCMS</i>
<p>Increase student achievement and academic growth across all grade levels and content areas, as measured by Georgia Milestones End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments, while reducing achievement gaps among student subgroups through high-quality instruction, targeted interventions, and data-driven decision-making.</p>	<p>The focus area of Closing Achievement Gaps in Literacy and Mathematics aims to enhance student achievement by implementing evidence-based instructional strategies, targeted interventions, differentiated learning opportunities, and data-driven decision-making practices that support growth and proficiency in literacy and mathematics for all learners.</p>
<p>Improve school climate and culture through positive behavior supports, increased student engagement, and reduced discipline incidents, as measured by school climate ratings, discipline data, and stakeholder feedback.</p>	<p>The focus area of Addressing Mental Health and Behavioral Concerns aims to enhance student well-being, engagement, and academic success through the implementation of positive behavior supports, trauma-informed practices, social-emotional learning strategies, and collaborative partnerships that promote safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.</p>
<p>Recruit, develop, support, and retain highly effective teachers and leaders by providing meaningful professional learning, mentoring, career advancement opportunities, leadership development programs, and collaborative support structures that improve instructional effectiveness and student outcomes.</p>	<p>The focus area of Teacher Retention and Preparedness aims to enhance teacher effectiveness, professional growth, job satisfaction, and retention by fostering supportive learning environments, meaningful professional development opportunities, mentorship, collaboration, and instructional best practices that equip educators for long-term success.</p>
	

OUR SCHOOL COMPACT

Focus Areas
Computation Problem Solving Fluency/Comprehension

OUR PLEDGE TOGETHER

<i>DCMS will:</i>	<i>Parents will:</i>	<i>Students will:</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Provide a course syllabus *Provide study guides and/or notes to study for tests/exams *Provide students important dates for tests and projects *Invite parents to attend academic and other school events *Communicate with parents in a timely manner through phone, email, letter, etc. *Provide access as well as consistent and up to date grades and attendance on Power School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review course syllabus *Assist students with keeping up with important dates for tests and projects *Ensure that student is studying for tests and completing homework and projects *Attend academic focused events with students *Respond to school phone calls, emails, letters, etc. *Use Power School to keep up with student's grades and attendance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Review course syllabus and complete all class assignments/ projects/ homework *Study for tests/exams *Remind parents about upcoming Academic Events and attend with them. *Give parents flyers, newsletters and all other correspondence and return to school in a timely manner *Check Power School and ask for help from teachers when needed

Dodge County Middle School Acknowledgement Form

For the 2026-2027 school year, our Title I Handbook is available for your viewing on our school website at <https://dcms.dodge.k12.ga.us/>

The purpose of the Handbook is to provide families with detailed information regarding what it means to be part of a Title I School.

The Handbook is also a critical component in helping build a strong relationship between home and school.

PLEASE CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:

- ☐ I prefer a printed copy of the Handbook.
I will pick one up from the Parent Resource Center in the school lobby.
- ☐ I prefer to access the Handbook online at <https://dcms.dodge.k12.ga.us/> or through my Power Parent account.

Teacher Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Student Name (Printed by the Student) _____

Date _____

Please indicate with an X whether you prefer a printed copy or if you prefer to access the Handbook online via the school website.

Teachers, Parents and Students: Please sign and date your section, acknowledging access and agreement to the Compact.

THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO YOUR CHILD'S HOMEROOM TEACHER.
