

Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Families are the first teachers of their children; therefore, it is vital that the home and school work together to ensure academic success for all children. Opportunities for parents, guardians, and other family members to become engaged in their child(ren)'s educational experience will be offered at GMES and will be supported at the district level. GMES defines parent engagement as the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities.

This includes ensuring that:

- families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
- families are encouraged to be actively engaged in their child's education at school;
- families are full partners in their child(ren)'s education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child(ren).

Our Vision

Together we are dedicated to fostering an inclusive community where every student feels supported and empowered to achieve their goals, preparing them to become confident and productive citizens.

Together, We Can:

Welcome diversity

Empower one another

Collaborate with our community

Achieve goals

Nurture integrity



203 Newark Ave. Elkton, MD 21921
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Gilpin Manor Elementary School

2026-2027

Title I Family and Community
Engagement Policy & Plan



Mr. Adam Goodwin, *Principal*

Mrs. Sarah Matthews, *Assistant Principal*

Dr. Lori Pitcock, *Dean of Students*

April Norman

Title I Resource Teacher

Misty Pearson

Community School Advisory

Jessica Janusz-Grimes

School Mental Health Professional

Mary Klesius

School Mental Health Professional

Gilpin Manor Elementary School will include families in all aspects of Cecil County's Title I program by:

Collaborating with our Community

Establish and nurture community partnerships and provide resources to increase family engagement, strengthen school programs, family practices, and student learning and development:

- Christiana Care Cecil County (Union Hospital) - business partner
- Elkton Police Department-Safety Resource Officer
- Volunteers & Mentors from GORE, Christiana Care, and University of Delaware
- After-school Programs: Targeting STEM, Robotics, ELA, Math and Social and Emotional Learning
- Elkton Presbyterian Church tutoring
 - Wednesdays,
- YMCA Before and After School Programs
- Children's Guild
- Key Point Health
- Advantage Psychiatric Services
- Upper Bay
- The Boys and Girls Club of Harford and Cecil County

Building Relational Capacity

We will offer workshops and provide meeting opportunities to understand academic initiatives better, help establish effective home learning environments, and offer opportunities for volunteering or mentoring. Events such as:

- Volunteer/Mentor Orientation (ongoing)
- Donuts with Grown-ups
- Family and Community Engagement Events (at least once a marking period)
 - Literacy/Math Night
 - Read Across America Event
 - Multilingual Family Outreach

The school will provide information and opportunities for parents with limited English proficiency or disabilities to participate in programs, workshops, and visitations.

This plan was revised in September 2026 in collaboration with families, students, and staff.

Sharing the Decision Making

Provide opportunities for families to share their expertise, to become actively engaged, and provide input on school-wide decisions by attending the following events:

- Parent/Teacher Conferences
- GMES Back to School/ Title 1 Kick-off to inform families about the School-Parent Compact, Title 1 School-wide Program and its purpose, engage parents in decisions regarding the spending of the Family Engagement Funds Participation on school-based decision-making teams (School Advocacy Committee, School Improvement Team, Family and Community Engagement Committee and School Culture and Climate Team)
- During Family Engagement Events there will be a Title I table to review and revise Title I policies, School-Parent Compact, and Family and Community Engagement Plan

Questions, Comments or Suggestions-

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding our school improvement plan and our parent engagement plan.

Parents Rights to Know in Title 1 Schools

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) that was signed by President Obama on December 10, 2015, states that parents have the right to know the qualifications of the people who teach their children. The Cecil County Public School System is pleased with the level of skill and competence of our teacher workforce. We will provide this information as requested.

If you would like to know the specific qualifications of your child's teacher and/or paraprofessional, please send the office of your child's school a written request.

Find Us Online:

Website:
<https://gmes.ccps.org/>



Facebook:
<https://facebook.com/GipinManorElementary>

