# Parent and Family Engagement Plan for Shared Student Success 2026-2027

*Revised August 2026*

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## What is Title I?

Sandy Springs MS is identified as a Title I school as part of Every Student Succeeds Act (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.



# School Plan for Shared Student Achievement



## What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Sandy Springs MS will provide opportunities to improve family engagement to support student learning. Sandy Springs MS values the contributions and involvement of parents and family members to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Sandy Springs MS will support family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

## How is it revised?

Sandy Springs MS invited all parents to attend our annual School Forum last spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement plan, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-family compact, and the family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcome during the school year through an online form. The plan is posted on our school's website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online and by mail to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year including our annual Community Cares event.

## Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Sandy Springs MS will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents and family members with limited English, with disabilities, and of migratory children.

## Where is it available?

At the beginning of the year, the plan is included in the student handbook that is given to all students. As a reminder, we will email the plan to all parents in August before the scheduled Open House event. The plan will also be posted on the school's website and social media. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource Center.

## *2026-2027 District Goals*

Increase the percentage of all students scoring Proficient or Distinguished on Reading Milestones.

Increase the percentage of all students scoring Proficient or Distinguished on Math Milestones.

## *2026-2027 School Goals*

**Math:**
By May 2027, 75.8% of students will score at the Developing, Proficient, or Distinguished Level on the Georgia Milestones Math assessment, an increase of 3%.

**ELA:**
By May 2027, 74.8% of students will score at the Developing, Proficient, or Distinguished Level on the Georgia Milestones ELA assessment, an increase of 3%. ***This is based on 2025 ELA scores. 2026 scores will not report until November 2026.*

**Focus Areas:**

**Math**: Developing an understanding of numbers and operations in all mathematical areas.

**Reading**: Reading fluency and comprehension and vocabulary development.

## School-Family Compacts

As part of this plan, Sandy Springs MS and our families will develop a school-family compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all our students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers during the Community Cares event and the School Forum. The school-parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.



# Let's Get Together!



Sandy Springs MS will host the following events to build the capacity for strong family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement. All meetings for parents and family members will be held in a blend of both and twice during the day -- in the morning before school and in the evening at 5:30 pm.

***Open House – July 30, 2026***
Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff for the year.

***Annual Title I Parent Meeting – September 10, 2026***
We invite you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' requirements. Invitations will be emailed and posted in the school newsletter, social media, and local media.

***Curriculum Night – September 10, 2026***
Learn helpful information about grade-level curriculum expectations to prepare your child for the school year.

***Technology Night – September 10, 2026***
Learn helpful information on how to navigate in the parent portal of Infinite Campus and learn about copyright laws.

***Student Support/Counseling Workshop – February 10, 2027***
Gather information for supporting students' social and emotional wellbeing.

***Literacy Night – November 12, 2026***
Learn how to support your student in becoming a confident lover of reading.

***ELL Night – October 15, 2026***
Learn how to access important information, resources, and get involved in the community.

***STEM/ Math Night – December 8, 2026***
Enjoy a night of STEM activities, games, and information fun for the whole family!

***Assessment Data Night – January 26, 2027***
Acquire tools for understanding and using the data and results of your child's testing.

***Transition Meetings – April and May 2027***
Gain important information about the next grade level and meet your new teachers! Multiple events will be held throughout the semester and will be presented by the counseling staff from SSCMS and our feeder elementary schools and High School.

## Parent Resource Center

Days/Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
9AM-12PM
Phone: (470)254-4970

Contact Person: Laurie Woodruff, Principal
WoodruffL@fultonschools.org

## Parent and Family Engagement

SSCMS 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, including ensuring:

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

If transportation or child-care are barriers to attending Title I and family engagement events, please contact the school. If possible and when possible, a school representative will try to find a community partner or volunteer to provide transportation or child-care.

Laurie Woodruff
(470) 254-8660



# Sandy Springs MS is Branching Out!



SSCMS will take the following measures to promote and support parents and family members as an important foundation of the school to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in both English and Spanish.
- ✓ Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards.
- ✓ Providing training and workshops to support families on topics such as: technology training (e.g., how-to use Infinite Campus), and academic workshops aligned to student achievement including, but not limited to, SSCMS areas of emphasis: STEM and literacy.
- ✓ Providing materials to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievement such as ELA/Reading and Math resources available for check out in the Parent Resource Center.
- ✓ Providing families with timely information about Title I programs in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.
- ✓ Providing flexible time and number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning and evening. Meetings will be offered in different formats such as virtual or in person.
- ✓ The school will hold an initial in-service in the fall and an additional meeting in the spring each school year to educate all teachers and staff on how to improve communication with parents and families and how to work with parents as equal partners. The school will provide ongoing support to staff through other sources, such as: webinars, instructional videos and resources provided online to build staff capacity throughout the school year.
- ✓ The residential facilities for students in the Sandy Springs MS's attendance area is included in the family engagement correspondence and activities.

# Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Sandy Springs MS and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcoming All Families
2. Communicating Effectively
3. Supporting Student Success
4. Speaking Up for Every Child
5. Sharing Power
6. Collaborating with Community

## School Community Team

SSCMS invites all parents to join the School Community Team to share ideas and ways to involve other parents and family members to build partnerships with school, families, and the community. The team will meet four times during the school year, but parents and family members can also submit their ideas or suggestions at any school activities and meetings, as well as through our parent surveys and website. If you would like to learn more about the School Community Team, please contact us or complete the form and leave it in the Main Office.



## School Community Team

- ☐ Yes, I am interested and wish to join the School Community Team.
- ☐ Please contact me so I can learn more in joining the School Community Team.
- ☐ Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates.

Name: _____

Child's Name and Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

## Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this policy that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____

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