

2026-27 Annual Title I & Family Engagement Meeting

Downtown Elementary School

August 27, 2026

PLC Coach- Ms. Brazil



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 Downtown Elementary School participation in Title I,
- explain the requirements of Title I, and
- 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? (Parent & Family Engagement Requirements; Parent-Teacher Conferences; Availability of Parent Training)
- Who can I contact for help?
- Parents' Right to Know (including Teacher Qualifications)
- District/School Progress/School Status
- Reporting Pupil Progress
- Opportunities for Additional Parent Meetings

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 2026-27, our school was allotted approximately $ 510,000.00 in Title I funding.**
- We developed a **Schoolwide Program**, which means we plan to spend our funds on the following:
  - Supplemental staff:
    - PLC Coach
    - Interventionist
    - Assistant Principal
    - Behavioral Specialist
    - 3 Specialized Educational Assistants
  - Programs/Materials/Supplies:
    - Copier (lease & maintenance), math manipulatives, computer carts and laptops, Wonders Practice Workbooks, headphones, copy paper, ink, and various other instructional materials/supplies
  - Teacher Professional Development:
    - Contracted PD with All in Learning, Content Specific Vertical planning in grades 2-5

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.

What is our school's designation status?

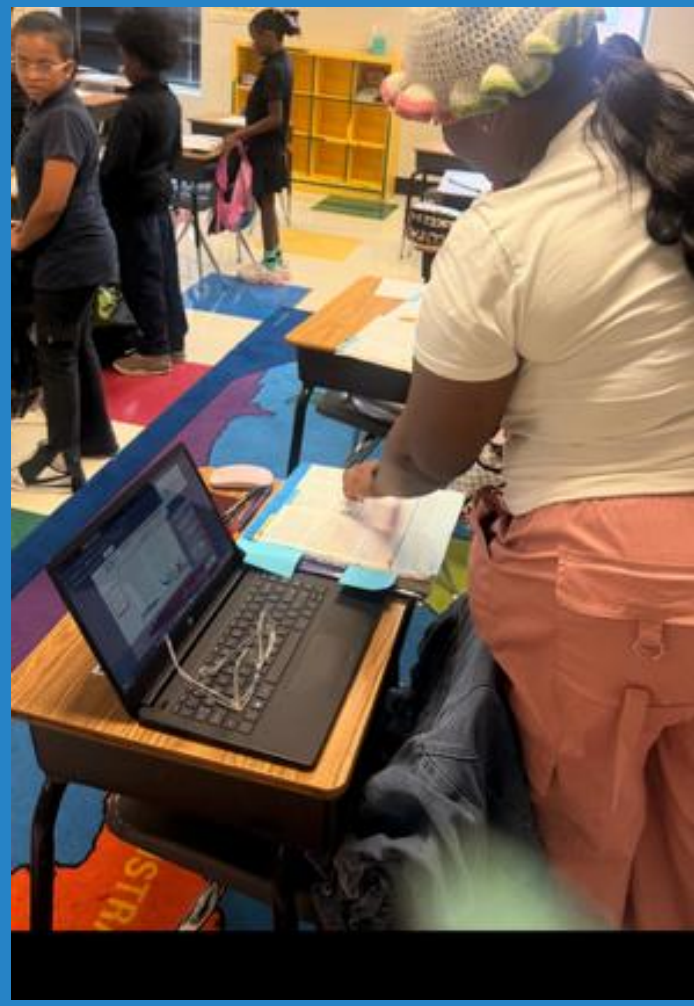
- In accordance with Tennessee's accountability system, the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) determines designations for all public schools. Designations include:
  - **Reward Schools:** Recognizes schools with high levels of performance or student growth, including the top 5% of schools.
  - **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.

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.
- For more information about Tennessee's academic standards, see:
- Academic Standards
  www.tn.gov/education/districts

What curriculum does our school use?

Downtown Elementary School uses the following curricula to guide students toward mastery of state standards per grade level:

- **ELA (Reading) – McGraw-Hill Wonders**
- **Math – Envision Mathematics**
- **Science – Savvas Elevate Science**
- **Social Studies – Studies Weekly**
- **RTI^2-A – i-Ready**







MSCS Assessment Calendar 2026-2027

District or State Mandated Assessment	Test Administration Window	Assessment	Participants/Brief Description	Parents/Students Informed of Results
District	Aug. 31 - Sep. 4, 2026 Aug. 31: Social Studies Sep. 1: Writing Sep. 2: ELA Sep. 3: Math Sep. 4: Science	Common Formative Assessment #1: Performance Matters and Vantage Learning Writing Assessment	Students in grades 6-8 and students in EOC courses will participate in short CFAs including a writing formative assessment.	Teachers can share results with parents at any point after the test is completed.
State Mandated	Sept. 14 - Dec. 18, 2026	DLM: TCAP Alternate Assessments ELA and Math: Fall Window	Some students in grades 3-11 with significant cognitive disabilities take the alternate assessments in ELA and math (TCAP ALT) instead of the regular TCAP assessments.	Parents should be able to access scores by July in the TDOE Family Portal: https://familyreport.tnedu.gov/login
State Mandated	Sept. 29-30, Oct. 1-2 & 5-9 **OR** Oct. 20-23 **OR** Oct. 27- 30 & Nov. 2-6, 2026	ACT- Grade 12	Seniors will take the ACT at their high school during the regular school day.	Students receive ACT results 3-8 weeks after testing at MyACT.org.
District	Sep. 29 - Nov. 6, 2026	PreACT	All 8th, 9th, and 10th grade students will participate in a PreACT test.	PreACT scores will be available approximately one month after testing.
Not Required	Oct. 1 - 30, 2026	PSAT 11th Grade	11th grade students may participate in this assessment. Pre-registration is necessary.	Students should receive scores via mail in December.
District	Oct. 5 - 9, 2026	Performance Matters Interim Assessment #1 and Vantage Learning Writing Formative Assessment	Grades 3-8 and HS students enrolled in EOC-tested courses will take standards-based formative assessments. Students in grades 6-8 and English I and II will take writing formative assessments.	Teachers can share results with parents at any point after the test is completed.

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:
  - District Website – Community tab – Family Engagement
- The school Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be shared In addition, the policy can be found here:
  - District Website – Schools – Sample Elementary School – Parent & Students – Title I

How is parent and family engagement funded?

- In 2026-27, we received approximately $7,422.35 in parent and family engagement funding. We plan to use these funds for:
  - Parent and Family Engagement Meeting and Events
    - Family Literacy Night – September 24, 2026
    - Family Math & Science Night---October 2026
    - School Data Night – January 14, 2027
  - Materials/Supplies
    - Materials for parent training (Family Literacy Night)
    - Materials for parent training – make-n-take (Family Math & Science Night)
    - Refreshments and materials for School Data Night

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.

DES Optional Program
Choose Downtown Elementary
Title 1 Resources
School Supply Lists
Report Student Absences
Pay Online
CLUE Resources
Guidance Counseling
Library Services +
Health & Wellness
Parent/Teacher/Student Resources +
Teachers' Wish Lists

Title 1 Resources

For suggestions or feedback regarding the School Improvement Plan, please contact Taurus Brazil by phone at 901-416-8490, or via email at brazilt@scsk12.org.

2026-2027 Family Enagement Plan English Version

2026-2027 Family Enagement Plan Spanish Version

2026-2027 Family Enagement Plan French Version

2026-2027 Parent Compact English Version

2026-2027 Parent Compact Spanish Version

2026-2027 Parent Compact French Version

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, Parent and Family Engagement Policy, School Parent Compact
- Please make note of all meetings from the invitation (flyer, Class Dojo, School wide Class Dojo, Blackboard communication – text and/or email, and school's social media outlets) and plan to attend each meeting.



How can I be involved?



- Some examples of how you can be involved in your child's education include, but are not limited to:
  - encouraging attendance;
  - monitoring grades and schoolwork on an online system or portal;
  - be knowledgeable and understand the Student Code of Conduct
  - attending family events and meetings;
  - observing or volunteering in classrooms;
  - joining family groups and committees (e.g., PTA/PTO, advisory councils, etc.); and
  - reading school/classroom newsletters or utilizing websites that contain examples of learning activities families can do with students at home.
- Additionally, Downtown Elementary School's FEP describes several other opportunities for you to be involved in the education of your child.

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 by contacting Assistant principals Mrs. Smith-Taylor, Ms. Black or PLC Coach Ms. Brazil
  - 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?

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

Parents' Right-To-Know

All parents have the right to request the following:

- A teacher's professional qualifications, which include: 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 not be 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 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

Who can I contact for help?

- For general questions, call **Ms. Lashley/ Ms. Parson** in the Main Office at: **901.416-8400**
- To reach the principal, **Ms. Brandye A. Williams,** call: **901.416.8400**
- To reach the **Assistant Principals Mrs. Smith-Taylor and Ms. Black** call**: 416.8400**
- To reach the school counselor, **Dr. Gaten,** call: **901.416.8641**
- To reach our Family liaison, **Malinda Callahan** call: **901.416.0662**
- To reach our Title I Coordinator and PLC, **Ms. Brazil** call: **901-416-8490**
- To reach our Interventionist **Ms. Conner** call: **901-416-8580**
- To reach our Community Schools Specialist, **Mrs. Marshe' Taylor** call: **901-416-0705**
- To reach our Optional School Coordinator, **Mrs. Morton** call: **901-416-8403**
- To reach your child's teacher, call the front office or view our staff directory at:

(Downtown Website) https://downtown-es.scsk12.org/



WE JUST WANT TO SAY…

THANK YOU!