



## **Title I-A Parental Involvement Plan 2016-2017**

### **The Marietta City School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:**

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with Section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA). These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1118, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of Section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1118 (d) of the ESEA.
- The school district will incorporate this LEA parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under Section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the state Department of Education.
- The school district will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent and will ensure that not less than 95 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- (A) That parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.*
- (B) That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.*
- (C) 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.*
- (D) The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1118 of the ESEA.*

Marietta City Schools (MCS), also referred to as the Local Educational Agency (LEA) or the district, is committed to establishing partnerships with parents and community members, and encourages their participation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of its Title I-A Parent Involvement Plan and activities as stipulated under section 1112, section 1116, and section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965.

**(A) MCS involves parents in the joint development of the plan under Section 1112, Local Educational Agency Plans, and the process of school review and improvement under section 1116, Academic Assessment and Local Educational Agency and School Improvement, of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).**

Marietta City Schools involves parents in the development, review, and revision of the district's Title I Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and Parent Involvement Policy. All parents of students attending Title I Schools and parents of homeless, migrant, neglected and delinquent children are invited to participate in the process either at the local school or at the LEA Parent Advisory Council (PAC) Meetings. Additionally, parents whose children are served by Title I and attending private schools are given the same opportunity to participate in the process. The PAC is open to all parents of students participating in the Title I Program. A Parent Advisory Council meeting is held during the months of September and April. Parent input from the local school review meetings, the PAC meetings, and the Title I Annual Parent Survey are used to revise the MCS CLIP and Parent Involvement Policy. Local schools Title I planning meetings are held from late spring to early fall with additional Title I Planning Meetings scheduled as needed. During these meetings, all parents will have the opportunity to provide feedback and input. Additionally, all parents will have the opportunity to review all Title I documents and provide feedback and input during a designated document review period at each school. The Title I Program including all documents will be reviewed in detail at the Title I Annual Parent Meeting held during the month of August or September held at each Title I school. All meetings are advertised to all parents in at least two different ways, such as: sending flyers home with students, using the local school phone message system, posting the information on the school's website or marquee.

**(B) MCS provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

The Title I Office staff provides the coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist each Title I school in planning and implementing effective parent involvement activities to improve student academic performance in the four core academic content areas (English/Language Arts, math, science and social studies). Most Title I schools fund a full or part time Parent Liaison to help build the capacity of parents to provide academic support to their children. Title I Program Specialists assist the Parent Liaisons at each Title I school to ensure the effective planning and implementation of the parent involvement program. The Title I Office also provides each Parent Liaison with professional development on research-based parent involvement strategies to help parents support their children's academic success.

To fund the parent involvement programs at the district and school level, the Title I Office allocates funds for parent involvement based on the mandate contained in the ESEA. Not less than one percent (1%) of the MCS Title I allocation is set aside for parent involvement. The total allocation for parent involvement for the 2016-2017 school year supports the Title I Parent Centers, printing, supplies, and materials for parent activities for each Title I school. Local schools may also offer a Parent Academy which

provides professional learning for parents on enhancing their parenting skills to ensure the academic success of their children. Additionally, district and school staff will participate in professional development for family engagement capacity building.

**(C) MCS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement.**

Marietta City Schools recognizes the importance of working in partnership with students, parents and community. Administrators, faculty, and staff collaborate with businesses and community-based organizations to provide resources and networks for parents and students.

MCS supports parents in meeting their basic obligation as their child's first teacher. This is accomplished in part through parent centers at Title I schools, where materials for check-out are available to parents. Local school and community resources are also available to parents through the parent centers. Parents are encouraged to attend the Title I Annual Parent Meeting to assist them in understanding national, state, and district education goals, content standards, the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards (CCGPS), and the parents' educational rights and responsibilities under the Elementary and Secondary Act and Title I, Part A.

Trainings offered to parents include: 1) school, district and state assessments; 2) strategies to help their children acquire reading, writing, math, science, social studies, or test taking skills; 3) monitoring their children's academic progress; 4) effective communication with educators; 5) the use of technology; 6) English classes for non-English speakers and 7) decision-making skills, goal setting and tracking goal progress.

Parent meeting and workshop days, times and locations vary to accommodate parents' schedules and maximize parent participation. Childcare and interpreters may be provided for Title I meetings when feasible.

All learning opportunities provided for parents are based on:

**The Six Strategies for Building Capacity for Parent Involvement**

**i. Program Information for Parents:** Each school shall provide assistance to parents of participating Title I children in understanding such topics as the state's academic content and achievement standards, the assessments being used, the requirements of Title I, Part A, and how to monitor their children's progress and work with educators to improve their achievement.

**ii. Materials and Training:** Each school shall provide materials and training, such as literacy and trainings on how to use technology, to help parents work with their children to improve achievement.

**iii. Educate Educators:** Each school shall educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other 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.

**iv. Preschool Coordination:** Each school shall "to the extent feasible and

**appropriate,” coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs with Head Start, Even Start, and other preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.**

**v. Understandable Communication: Each school shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings and other activities is sent to parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.**

**vi. Other Requested Activities: Each school shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request.**

All parent communications are provided in an easy-to-understand language. Translations and interpreters are provided when necessary. MCS maintains continuous communication with parents via multiple media, including MCS and local school websites, local media, community and business partners, parent-teacher conferences, parent workshops, parent centers, newsletters, emails, signs and posters, telephone, and automated calling systems.

Annually, parents are notified of the academic status of Title I schools. Parents of students attending Title I schools identified as Priority and Focus receive a written explanation regarding the school’s status and are advised of their parent rights under ESEA. These parents have the right to provide input regarding the development of the school’s Flexible Learning Program (FLP). Additionally, each school’s parents, administration and faculty, and other school district personnel assist the school in defining and attaining academic goals. Information about Flexible Learning Programs is made available on each Priority and Focus School’s website. Information is also available at each school’s Parent Center.

The MCS Title I Parent Advisory Council (PAC) represents all Title I parents in matters concerning the district’s Title I Program. All parents from each Title I school, Parent Liaisons, Title I Office Staff and other district level personnel are invited to attend. PAC meetings are held twice each year. Topics of discussion for these meetings include: Title I updates, the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and the Consolidated Application or the Title I budget plan for the upcoming year. Parents have the opportunity to provide feedback through discussion sessions and surveys. Suggestions are always welcomed and considered.

**(D) MCS will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies under Title I with parental involvement strategies under other programs, such as the Head Start program, Reading First program, Early Reading First program, Even Start program, Parents as Teachers program, and Home Instruction Program for Preschool Youngsters, and State-run preschool programs.**

The MCS Title I Program coordinates and integrates parent involvement strategies with other programs such as Special Education, the Early Intervention Program (EIP), Flexible Learning Programs (FLP), Reading Recovery, the English Language Learners (ELL) program, and transition programs to support students and their parents as they transition from preschool to Kindergarten, elementary school to middle school, middle school to high school, and high school to post-secondary institutions and the workplace.

**(E) MCS will conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parental involvement policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools**

**including identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in activities, with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background), and use the findings of such evaluation to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, the parental involvement policies.**

The Title I Parent Involvement Plan for MCS and each Title I school are reviewed and revised annually. Each Title I school administers an annual Title I survey for parent input. Parent meetings are held at various sites and times to maximize parent participation so that parents have the opportunity to provide input regarding the Plan. In addition, parents can provide input through the Title I Parent Advisory Council and at the Title I Planning Meetings to discuss the effectiveness of the Title I Program. Parent input, along with survey results from local schools, are used to determine the effectiveness of the program; to identify barriers to parent participation; and to increase opportunities for parent participation.

All Title I meetings are documented with a printed agenda, attendance sign-in sheets, copies of multiple invitations such as flyers announcing the meeting, phone logs and school website postings. Minutes of all Title I meetings are recorded and all parents' written comments and suggestions are collected and submitted to the Title I Office. The Title I Office maintains its records for five years and is subject to monitoring by the Georgia Department of Education and the United States Department of Education.

**(F) MCS will involve parents in the activities of the Title I schools.**

Marietta City Schools is committed to establishing partnerships with parents and community members, and encourages their participation in the design, implementation, and evaluation of its Title I Parent Involvement Plan and opportunities for parent involvement activities at the local school and district level as stipulated under section 1112, section 1116, and section 1118 of ESEA.

Title I Annual Parent Meetings are held at each school in August or September to inform parents of the guidelines, purpose, and goals of the Title I Program. Parents are also informed about the school's Parent Center and the supportive role the Parent Liaison plays in supporting parents to provide them with strategies and materials to help their children be academically successful.

During Title I Annual Parent Meetings, the district's Title I Parent Involvement Plan, School – Parent Compact, Local School Parent Involvement Plan, Calendar of Events, and the Title I Complaint Procedure are reviewed with parents. Also, parents are informed of the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Protection of Pupil Rights Act (PPRA) and the Student Directory Information Disclosure to military/institutions of higher learning (high schools). These required Title I documents and parent notifications are distributed by each local Title I school, and are included in the Title I Parent Handbook and posted on district and local school websites.

The jointly developed School-Parent Compact is explained, discussed, and signed with parents and students during local school meetings. Some examples of these meetings are Curriculum Night, Open House, Orientation meetings, or parent-teacher conferences. The School-Parent Compact is also reviewed and discussed at the Title I Annual Parent Meeting. Schools use the compacts during follow-up conferences throughout the year and maintain the original signed cover page. During the initial dissemination, teachers are asked to make three attempts to collect the signed Compact Cover Page from each parent. Newly enrolling students and parents discuss and sign the School-Parent Compact and receive a copy, along with the other required Title I documents at registration. During follow-up meetings, parents and teachers may elect to revise an individual student's School-Parent compact to accommodate that student's individual needs.

Each Title I school provides its faculty and staff members with training to help them work with parents as equal partners in the educational process and to increase effective communication between the home and school. Parents' input is considered in planning this training.

Additional opportunities to involve parents include: Title I Parent Workshops, volunteer programs and participation in school leadership teams such as the Title I Planning Team, PTA, Local School Councils, local school Parent Leadership Academies and the LEA Parent Advisory Council.

Each Title I School surveys its parent population, at least annually, to evaluate the effectiveness of its parent involvement program. Parents are given opportunities to participate in the survey, through written and online questionnaire, personal interviews, or focus groups.

Each school's Title I Planning Team, which consists of parents, community members, school administrators, and staff, meets to review and revise the School Parent Involvement Policy, Calendar of Events, and the School-Parent Compact. All parents have the opportunity to provide input about spending Title I funds through the Title I Planning Team meetings and at schoolwide parent meetings. Proposed budgets are available to all parents for their review at the Title I Planning Team Meeting and at the local school during the designated document review period. Additionally, parents who are unable to attend the planning meeting will have access to a copy of the proposed budget and will be given the opportunity to provide feedback and input, prior to final approval of documents.

**This LEA Title I Parent Involvement Policy was last reviewed and revised with the input of MCS staff, parents, and community members on August 30, 2016.**