



## **Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan *Marietta City Schools School Year 2020-2021***

*[Revised July 30, 2020]*

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Marietta City Schools receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

### **The Marietta City School District agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:**

- The school district will put into operation programs, activities, and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of Section 1116(b) of the ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESSA.
- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESSA 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, 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 be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

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

(A) Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning (B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school (C)

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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

## **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

The Marietta City School District will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d):

Marietta City Schools involves parents and families 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 quarterly thereafter at the district "Our First Steps" and "Our Next Steps" events, which are gatherings designed to hear from our parents and families regarding areas of support and improvement needed for the success of their students and parent/family engagement in student success. Parent and family 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.

## **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE**

The Marietta City School District will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

The Executive Director of Innovative Practices and Parent/Community Strategist provide 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. The Parent Liaisons at each Title I school to ensure the effective planning and implementation of the parent involvement program. The Federal Programs 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, funds are allocated for parent

involvement based on the mandate contained in the ESSA. 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 2019-2020 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. Throughout the year, parent will have opportunities to provide input into the resources necessary to carryout programs at each school.

## **ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Marietta City School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include 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). The evaluation will also include identifying the needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement 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 kept on file at each school and also submitted electronically to the district office. The district 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.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

The Marietta City School District will involve the parents and family members of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.

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 informed of the budget for parent and family engagement activities and programs and are provided an opportunity to provide feedback and input.

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 planning 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.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

The **Marietta City School District** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

The MCS Title I Program coordinates and integrates parent involvement strategies with other programs such as Special Education, the Early Intervention Program (EIP), Reading Recovery, the Graduate Marietta Student Success Center, 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.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS**

The Marietta City School District will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State academic standards
- The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
- The requirements of Title I, Part A
- How to monitor their child's progress
- How to work with educators
- Additional support for parent and family engagement activities, at parent's request.

MCS supports parents in helping their students' academic success by providing trainings and supports in the following areas: 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.

Additionally, parents are supported, in part, through parent centers at Title I schools, where materials for checkout 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, and parents' educational rights and responsibilities under ESSA and Title I, Part A.

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 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. 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, and other district level personnel are invited to attend. PAC meetings are held at least once a 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.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

The Marietta City School District will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff 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 schools through the following methods:

- 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. - The Executive Director of Innovative Practices and Parent/Community Strategist provide 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. The Parent Liaisons at each Title I school ensure the effective planning and implementation of the parent involvement program. The Executive Director of Innovative Practices and Parent/Community Strategist also provide each Parent Liaison with professional development on research-based parent involvement strategies to help parents support their children's academic success. - Both district and school staff will participate in professional development for family engagement capacity building.

To fund the parent involvement programs at the district and school level, the Federal Programs Office allocates funds for parent involvement based on the mandate contained in the ESSA. 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 2019-20 school year supports the staffing for a Parent Engagement Specialist that supports all of the Title I schools in building the capacity of parent and family engagement and support.

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 sources, 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.

## **BUILDING CAPACITY FOR INVOLVEMENT**

- Establishing a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs

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, Federal Program Staff and other district level personnel are invited to attend. PAC meetings are held once each year. Topics of discussion for these meetings include: Title I updates, the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) and 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.

## **ADOPTION**

This policy was adopted by the Marietta City School District on 07/30/2020 and will be in effect for the period of the 2020-2021 school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 10/15/2020.