



**2017-2018**

## **Myrtle Beach Elementary School Parent and Family Engagement Policy**

Horry County Schools encourages, supports, and values the participation and involvement of parents and families in the educational experiences of their children. The District recognizes each parent as a child's first teacher and acknowledges the powerful influence of parents on the child's life. The District shall be committed to developing family-friendly schools, offices, and programs that welcome and serve parents and families in positive and supportive environments.

The District acknowledges that students learn best when families and schools work together and develop relationships of shared responsibility and mutual support. The District recognizes that families are diverse in culture, language, and needs. It shall be the goal of the schools and teachers to meaningfully collaborate with all parents in meeting the needs of individual students.

The District shall assist parents in learning how home environments can support the academic achievement of students. Communicating the value of an education and the importance of high expectations will be emphasized. Strategies such as parenting classes, home visitation opportunities, and adult education programs will be offered to support parents. The District acknowledges the responsibility to help parents access and secure educational information, services, and opportunities for their children. Special assistance will be provided to ensure that non-English speaking parents may also participate as full partners in their child's education.

Parents make valuable contributions to the educational process and shall be included as participants in important school and district decisions. The District supports the work of the members of the Strategic Planning Committee and School Improvement Councils to participate as decision-makers. Parents are encouraged to participate on committees and parent organizations at both the school and district level and to serve as volunteers for classroom, school, and district-wide activities.

Professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and other district employees shall be offered to enhance the ability of schools to effectively service all students, parents, and families. As a priority focus for the District, parent involvement activities will be supported through the allocation of District and special revenue resources. The District shall also collaborate and cooperate with businesses and community agencies to support the needs of parents and families.

## **Horry County Schools Parent & Family Engagement Policy**

### **Our Parent & Family Engagement Policy:**

- Encourages, supports, and values the participation and meaningful involvement of parents and families in the educational experiences of their children that improve student academic achievement and school performance
- Commits to developing family-friendly schools, offices, and programs that welcome parents and families to positive and supportive environments
- Recognizes students learn best when families, community members and schools work together, developing relationships of shared responsibility and mutual support
- Assists parents in learning how home environments can support the academic achievement of students
- Offers strategies such as parenting classes, home visitation opportunities, and adult education programs to support parents
- Provides special assistance to ensure that non-English speaking parents may participate as full partners in their child's education
- Recognizes parents, family and community members make valuable contributions to the educational process as participants in important school and district decisions
- Encourages parents to participate on a school committee that meets three or more times a year, to become members of parent organizations (at school and district level) and to serve as volunteers for classrooms, school, and district wide activities.

### **Title I funds provide many opportunities for parent, family, and community engagement**

#### ***Conducts outreach to involve parents, family and community members in the joint development of the District Plan and in the Process of School Review and Improvement***

- Collaborate with community stakeholders at all levels of District and School Strategic Planning
- School-wide planning teams review the School-wide plans and provide input into revisions, additions and deletions for activities and budget
- Findings from each school's needs assessment will be utilized
- Present Title I program/activities and requirements of Title I at parenting meetings
- Present school-wide plans to parents at Annual Title I meetings

#### ***Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective Parent & Family Engagement Activities***

- Involve parents and family members in decisions regarding how funds are allotted for Parent & Family Engagement Activities
- Not less than 1% of the Title I allocation will be reserved for parent and family engagement activities, including family literacy and parenting skills
- Not less than 90% of the funds reserved for parent and family engagement shall be distributed to schools for activities including education workshops and home visits
- Provide training to school staff, administration, and parents to strengthen parent involvement efforts
- Provide a school counselor program in coordination with mental health counselors for services such as individual and group counseling, home visits, character education, and career education programs
- Provide coordination for effective parent and family engagement through the School's Improvement Council (SIC)

#### ***Build the schools and parents' capacity for strong parent and family involvement***

- Involve parents in planning of the Title I Plan

- Provide parent conference opportunities
- Provide family nights on literacy, math, assessments, monitoring child's progress, and state academic standards
- Support and participate in volunteer programs
- Encourage parents to observe in classrooms
- Share results from Response to Intervention (RTI) Teams that identify and monitor children at risk
- Sponsor Parent/Student Orientation Night

***Coordinate and integrate Parent & Family Engagement Strategies under programs, such as Babynet, Child Find and Parent-Child Home Program***

- Developmental screenings are available for children from birth to age 2-1/2 years old. Contact South Carolina Babynet at 1-877-621-0865 for more information or to schedule a screening appointment.
- Developmental screenings are available for children aged 2-1/2 years old through 5 years old, not enrolled in a public school program. Contact Horry County Schools Preschool Assessment Office at 843-488-6220 for more information or to schedule a screening appointment.
- Home visits are available to families with children 16 months to 4 years old to strengthen the family and prepare children to succeed in school by increasing parent-child interactions. Contact the Parent-Child Home Program at 843-222-9959 for more information.
- Parents and family members with children participating in these programs will be encouraged to become involved in all parenting activities.
- Horry County Schools provides two comprehensive Family Literacy Programs. The services include Adult Education, Parenting, Interactive Literacy Activities, and Early Childhood.
- Information is provided to parents and family members concerning early interventions for children and family literacy. Contact 488-6230 for more information.

***Involve parents and families in the activities of the school served under Title I, Part A.***

- Schedule parent-teacher conferences at various times to accommodate parents' schedules
- Provide Family Night Workshops
- Encourage two-way communication between home and school through such methods as newsletters, email, phone calls, home visits, parent conferences, and surveys

***Conduct, (with the involvement of parents, family and community members), an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy that will determine the effectiveness of the policy in improving the academic quality of Title I schools. This includes identifying barriers to greater participation by families (especially, families who are economically disadvantaged, disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are a racial or ethnic minority).***

- Appropriate revisions are made based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement
- Distribute the final (DRAFT) Parent & Family Engagement Policy to parents in the fall
- Update the policy, as needed. Conduct annual review with parents, community members, school/district administrators, and school staff members, in order to, continuously meet the changing needs of the school
- Use the findings of evaluation to design strategies for more effective parent and family activities. Revise the Parent & Family Engagement Policy, as necessary
- Solicit comments from parents regarding the Parent & Family Engagement Policy through an annual survey conducted at registration and throughout the school year
- Involve families in school activities, which may include establishing an advisory board to develop, revise, and review the engagement policy
- Provide frequent reminders, such as, flyers, newsletters, telephone contacts, and email messages to parents and families concerning meetings, workshops, and conferences
- Provide frequent reminders, such as flyers, newsletters, telephone contacts, and email messages to parents and families concerning meetings, workshops, and conferences

***Develop jointly with parents and family members a School-Parent Compact and share at the first parent teacher conference***

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the School-Parent Compact
- Revise, as appropriate, based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement
- Recognize the compact involves parents and family members making a commitment to share the responsibility for their children's performance.
- Recognize the school, parents, and family members build and maintain meaningful communication (in a language family members understand) to help the students achieve state standards.
- Offer professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and other district employees to enhance the ability of schools to effectively service all students, parents, and families

**Parent's Right to Know**

At the beginning of the school year, parents must be informed of their right to request information about qualifications of teachers and paraprofessionals (District).

If substitutes who are not properly certified are used for four or more weeks, a letter must be sent to parents explaining the current classroom status (Schools).

This policy meets the requirements of the Title I Parent & Family Engagement Policy under Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). **This policy meets the requirements of section 1116 of ESSA.**

If you have any questions or concerns, please fill out our feedback form on our website at: [www.horrycountyschools.net](http://www.horrycountyschools.net) under Academics in the Federal Programs department.

You may contact:

Margaret B. Sordian  
Title I Coordinator  
Phone: 843-488-7018  
E-mail: [MSordian@horrycountyschools.net](mailto:MSordian@horrycountyschools.net)

Horry County Schools does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, immigrant status, English speaking status, or any other characteristics protected by applicable federal or S.C. law in its' programs or activities. For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policies call 843-488-6700, or write Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Road, Conway, S.C. 29526.

October/2017 Updated