

**Myrtle Beach Elementary
Parent & Family Engagement Policy**

PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Our Parent & Family Engagement Policy:

- Encourages, supports, and values the participation and involvement of parents and families in the educational experiences of their children.
- 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 and schools work together, developing relationships of shared responsibility and supportive environments.
- 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 and families 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 3 or more times a year, to become members of parent organizations (at school and district levels) and to serve as volunteers for classrooms, school, and district-wide activities.

**TITLE I FUNDS PROVIDE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR
PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

Involve parents with 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-side planning teams review the School-Wide plans and provide input into revisions, additions and deletions for activities and budget.
- Findings from each school's need assessment will be utilized.
- Present Title I Program/Activities and Requirements of the Title I at Parenting Meetings.
- School-wide plans are presented to parents at annual 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 families 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 involvement activities including family literacy and parenting skills.
- Not less than 90% of the funds reserved for parental involvement shall be distributed to schools for activities including educational 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.

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 progress, science, 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 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 concerning early interventions for children and family literacy. Contact 843-488-6230 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, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the Parent & Family Engagement Policy that will determine the effectiveness of 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 engagement 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.

Develop jointly with parents 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 making a commitment to share the responsibility for their children's performance.
- Recognize the school and parents build and develop a partnership to help the students achieve state standards.

- Offers 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 NOTIFICATIONS

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 statuses (Schools).

Federal Programs/Office of Title I

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 under Academics in the Federal Programs department; or you can contact:

The Office of Title I

Phone: 843-488-6950

Email: mdunsford@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 characteristic protected by applicable federal or South Carolina law in its programs or activities. For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policies call 843-488-6700, Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Rd, Conway, SC 29526.