



***DRAFT- Work in Progress for 2018-2019***

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

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

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

Myrtle Beach Middle School shall assist parents and families 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 and families. Myrtle Beach Middle School acknowledges the responsibility to help parents and 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. Myrtle Beach Middle School 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 levels and to serve as volunteers for classroom, school, and district-wide activities.

Professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, and other employees shall be offered to enhance the ability of Myrtle Beach Middle School to effectively service all students, parents, and families. As a priority focus for the Myrtle Beach Middle School, parent and family

engagement activities will be supported through the allocation of schoolwide and special revenue resources. Myrtle Beach Middle School shall also collaborate and cooperate with businesses and community agencies to support the needs of parents and families.

**Myrtle Beach Middle School adheres to the mandates set forth by the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, Title I.**

**Involve parents and families with joint development of the school-wide plan and in the process of school review and improvement.**

- Collaborate with community stakeholders at all levels of district and school strategic planning through School Improvement Councils, Title I planning committees, PTO, etc. in the development of goals.
- School-wide planning teams review the school-wide plans and provide input into revisions, additions, and deletions for activities and budget.
- Findings from the school's needs assessment will be utilized.
- Present Title I program/activities and requirements of Title I at parent meetings.
- School-wide plans are also presented to parents at an annual meeting each year.

**Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist participating schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.**

- Parents are involved in the decisions regarding how funds are allotted for parent and 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 95% of the funds reserved for parent and family engagement shall be distributed to schools and used for activities such as parent education workshops and home visits.
- Provide training to school staff, administration, and parents to strengthen parent and family engagement efforts by reaching out to, communicating with, and working with parents as equal partners.
- Provide a school counselor program in coordination with mental health counselors in order to provide services such as individual and group counseling, home visits, character education, and career education programs.
- The Title I program will provide coordination for effective parent and family engagement through the school's School Improvement Council.

**Build the school's and parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement.**

- Involve parents in the planning of the Title I plan.
- Provide parent conference opportunities.
- Family nights are offered and provide information on literacy, math, assessments, monitoring their child's progress, science, and the state's academic standards.
- Volunteer programs are supported in schools.
- Parents are invited to observe in classrooms.
- Student Study Teams (SST) identify at-risk behavior at an early stage and begin intervention through the efforts of parents, teachers, school counselor, and student.
- Provide a Parent/Student Orientation Night prior to the beginning of school.

**Conduct, with the engagement of parents and families, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of the parent and family engagement policy that will determine the effectiveness of the present policy and any barriers to participation in the parenting activities.**

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the parent and family engagement policy through an annual survey conducted in the spring and during school registration.
- Appropriate revisions are made based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement.
- The final (*DRAFT*) parent and family engagement policy is distributed to parents in the fall.
- The policy will be updated as needed and reviewed annually by parents, community members, school and district administrators, and school staff members in order to continuously meet the changing needs of parents, students, and the school.
- The findings of this evaluation will be used to design strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise the parent and family engagement policy, if necessary.
- Frequent reminders, such as flyers, newsletters, telephone contacts, and email messages, will be provided to parents concerning meetings, workshops, and conferences.

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

- Schedule parent-teacher conferences at a variety of times to accommodate parents' schedules.
- Provide family night workshops.
- Encourage two-way communication between home and school through newsletters, email, phone calls, home visits, parent conferences, surveys, etc. in an understandable and uniform format.

**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 the present policy and any barriers to participation in parenting activities**

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the Parent & Family Engagement Policy through an annual survey conducted at registration and throughout the school year
- 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.
- 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.**

- Solicit comments from parents regarding the school-parent compact.
- Appropriate revisions are made based on suggestions and/or recommendations for improvement.
- The revised compact is discussed by the teacher, the parent, and the student.
- The compacts involve parents by having them make a commitment to share the responsibility for their children's performance.
- The school and parents build and develop a partnership to help the students achieve the state's standards.

**Myrtle Beach Middle School shall also implement the following provisions set forth by Title 1 Legislation**

- **Certified Teachers** – Parents have a right to ask the school administration if a teacher possesses proper certification to teach the grade and content area he or she has been assigned. Parents have the right to notice if students are taught more than four consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not certified.