

Myrtle Beach Middle School

2019-2020 Parent and 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 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's Improvement Council (SIC)

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

- Involve parents in the planning of the Title I Plan
- Provide parent conference opportunities
- Provide family nights on literacy, math, assessments, monitoring a 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
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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 the 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).

If you have any questions or concerns at the school level, please fill out our feedback form on our website at:

<https://www.horrycountyschools.net/Page/12708> or contact:

Janice Christy

Principal

Phone: 843-424-0724

E-mail: jchristy@horrycountyschools.net

If you have any questions or concerns at the District level, please fill out our feedback form on our website at:

www.horrycountyschools.net under Academics in the Federal Programs department or contact:

Margaret B. Sordian

Title I Coordinator

Phone: 843-488-7018

E-mail: MSordian@horrycountyschools.net

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