



2026 – 2027

Revised July 13, 2026

Meriwether County School System's Parent and Family Engagement Plan

What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement is the participation of parents and family members in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, ensuring the following:

- Parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning.
- Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education.
- Parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees.
- The carrying out of other activities, such as those described in Section 1116 of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA).

What's Inside ...

- About the *Parent and Family Engagement Plan*
- How the plan is developed
- Parent and Family Engagement strengthens schools
- Reservation of Funds
- Opportunities for meaningful parent input
- Building parent and school staff capacity
- Parent and family engagement evaluation
- Accessibility for all families
- Adoption and distribution of plans
- Upcoming events



2100 Gaston Street, Greenville, GA 30222

www.mcssga.org



Every Student Matters, Every Moment Counts!

About the Parent and Family Engagement Policy

In support of improving student academic achievement, the Meriwether County School District (MCSS) has developed this Parent and Family Engagement Policy to outline the district's expectations and goals for meaningful family engagement while guiding the strategies and resources that strengthen partnerships between schools and families in its Title I schools. This policy



describes MCSS's commitment to engaging families in their children's education and building the capacity of its Title I schools to implement family engagement strategies and activities that support district goals and increase student academic success.

Title I, Part A promotes meaningful family engagement at every level of the program, including the development and implementation of district and school plans and the execution of district and school improvement initiatives. Section 1116 of the "Every Student Succeeds Act" (ESSA) establishes the primary Title I, Part A requirements for schools and districts to involve parents and family members in their children's education. In accordance with Section 1116, MCSS will collaborate with its Title I schools to ensure that each school-level Parent and Family Engagement Policy meets the requirements of Section 1116(b) and includes a school-parent compact that aligns with Section 1116(d) of ESSA.

Jointly Developed

During the annual State of the District meetings each spring, all parents are invited to participate and share suggestions for strengthening the district's Parent and Family Engagement Policy for the upcoming school year. The district notifies families of these meetings through social media, district and school websites, automated phone calls, emails, and flyers. During these meetings, parents also review and provide input on the Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP). In addition, each Title I school uses its Parent Advisory Council to review both the district and school improvement plans.

After revisions are finalized, the district Parent and Family Engagement Policy is incorporated into the CLIP and submitted to the Georgia Department of Education. Parents are encouraged to provide comments and feedback throughout the year by visiting the district website or submitting written input to their child's school. All feedback received by May 22, 2026, was considered for inclusion in the 2026-2027 plan.

To ensure broad access, the district will distribute this policy by posting it on district and school websites, making copies available in Parent Resource Centers, sharing it during the annual Title I meetings held each fall, and emailing a link to all parents in a language and format they can easily understand.

When schools, families, and communities work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and enjoy school more.

Strengthening Our Schools

This year, the district family engagement coordinator (FEC) will provide technical assistance and support to all Title I schools to ensure family engagement requirements are being satisfied and that family engagement strategies and activities are being implemented. Title I schools will receive notifications and resources from the district and the FEC to help them improve and strengthen family engagement. In addition to frequent communication and school visits, the district and the FEC will hold monthly meetings/training with its Title I schools' principals and school FECs to review family engagement plans and activities. Additionally, the district will convene a summit each spring for principals and FECs to review parent and family engagement requirements and plan opportunities for family engagement activities and meetings for the remainder of the school year.

Reservation of Funds

The Meriwether County School District will reserve 1 percent of the total amount of Title I funds it receives in 2025-2026 to carry out the parent and family engagement requirements listed in this plan and as described in Section 1116 of the ESSA. Furthermore, the MCSS will distribute 90 percent of the amount reserved to Title I schools to support their local-level family engagement programs and activities. The district will provide clear guidance and communication to assist each Title I school in developing an adequate family engagement budget that addresses the results of their needs assessment and parent recommendations.

Each Title I school will host an annual School Improvement Forum in April for parents to provide suggestions on how these family engagement funds will be used in the upcoming year at the district and school-level. Comment cards and minutes from these meetings will be reviewed by the district to determine areas of need for the upcoming school year and consider changes to the family engagement budget. If you have suggestions, please contact the FEC in the district office.

Opportunities for Meaningful Parent Consultation

Input and suggestions from parents and family members are essential components of the district and school improvement plans that are developed each year. All parents of students eligible to receive Title I services are invited to attend two meeting opportunities described in this section to share their ideas and suggestions to help the district, schools, and students to reach our student academic achievement goals.



Annual State of the District Meeting ~ April

All parents are welcome to attend and hear the latest updates from the Meriwether County School District as well as review and provide input for the district parent and family engagement policy and the

Comprehensive LEA Improvement Plan for the 2026-2027 school year. Notices regarding this meeting will be emailed to all parents in advance of the meeting. The district will also communicate information regarding this meeting on the school district website and social media outlets.

Annual School Improvement Forums ~ May

During this month, each Title I school will host a forum for parents and family members to participate in roundtable discussions to review the schoolwide plan and the school's parent and family engagement policies, as well as provide input on the family engagement budget and programs. Each Title I school will send invitations home and email and text parents notifying them about the date and time of the forum. Information regarding the School Improvement Forum will also be made available on the school websites and social media outlets.

Parent input on the use of Title I funds to support family engagement programs may also be provided through the district's annual parent survey. The survey will contain questions related to the family engagement budget as well as a section for parents to provide their comments.

Building Capacity...

MCSS will strengthen the capacity of both schools and families for meaningful engagement by promoting effective parent and family involvement and fostering strong partnerships among Title I schools, parents, and the community to support improved student academic achievement through districtwide programs and activities.



Building the Capacity of Parents

MCSS will provide families with information about the Title I program and its requirements while helping them understand academic expectations, Georgia's challenging academic standards, student progress, and local and state assessments, including alternate assessments. Through district technology specialists, parents will also receive guidance on using the district's online student information system, digital learning resources, and the importance of copyright compliance and digital citizenship. Information about these opportunities will be shared through the district and school websites, school messaging systems, newsletters, and social media.

The district and school websites provide parent guides, study resources, practice assessments, and at-home learning materials. Printed copies, including Spanish translations, are available at all Title I schools.

The MCSS Parent Advisory Council, composed of parent representatives from each Title I school, provides input on district and school family engagement initiatives. Community leaders and business partners are

also invited to participate, with virtual meeting and recording options available to encourage broad involvement.

MCSS will coordinate its family engagement efforts with other applicable federal, state, and local programs, including district preschool programs. Staff from these programs are invited to participate in family engagement planning. To support successful student transitions, schools will host Kindergarten Ready Days, Middle and High School Transition Nights, and College and Career Fairs, providing families with information and resources for each stage of their child's education.

Building the Capacity of School Staff

MCSS will provide ongoing professional learning for principals, Family Engagement Coordinators (FECs), and Title I staff to strengthen family engagement, enhance school-family communication, and build meaningful partnerships with parents and the community. Training will also focus on creating welcoming school environments and promoting effective two-way communication with families.



To ensure all families have access to important district and school information, each Title I school will provide communications in an understandable format and, when practicable, in families' native languages. School staff will receive training on parent notifications, translation resources, and the use of interpreters for meetings and events. Information will be shared through district and school websites, phone messaging systems, newsletters, social media, local news outlets, and other school communication platforms. District website content will also be translated to the extent practicable.

Parent and Family Engagement Evaluation

Each year, MCSS will evaluate the effectiveness of this Parent and Family Engagement Policy and related family engagement activities to enhance the academic quality of Title I schools through parent surveys and School Improvement Forums.

Beginning in April, each Title I school will distribute a parent survey to gather feedback on family engagement activities and programs. Surveys will also be available on district and school websites for parent participation. In addition, School Improvement Forums will provide opportunities for parents of students eligible for Title I services to share input, participate in discussions, and help develop strategies to strengthen family engagement.

The district and schools will use survey and forum feedback to improve family engagement practices, address barriers to parent participation, and update district and school family engagement plans as needed.

Accessibility

In carrying out the parent and family engagement requirements established by Section 1116 of the ESSA, the district FEC will communicate and collaborate with the Office for Student Support Services. To ensure full opportunities for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, the district will provide information and school reports in a language parents can understand to the extent possible.

Adoption

This district Parent and Family Engagement Plan has been developed jointly and agreed upon with parents and family members of children participating in Title I, Part A programs as evidenced by the collaboration of parents, school, and district personnel at the annual State of the District Forum. This plan was adopted by the Meriwether County School District on July 13, 2026, and will be in effect for the 2026-2027 academic school year. The school district will distribute this plan in multiple ways to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before the first week of fall semester.