

Parent Engagement Plan:

PART I. General Expectations

The Marion County School System agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

Marion County Schools will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

Consistent with section 1118, Marion County Schools will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA.

Marion County Schools will incorporate this LEA parental involvement plan into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, Marion County Schools and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, the Marion County Schools will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

Marion County Schools will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.

Marion County Schools will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring—

- (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;*
- (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;*
- (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child;*
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.*

PART II. Description Of How Marion County Schools Will Implement Required LEA Parent Engagement Plan Components

1. Marion County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its LEA parent engagement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:

- * Get input from parent leaders to discuss the plan and get their input and suggestions.
- * At the Annual Meeting of Title I Parents, parents will be given a copy of the LEA plan and informed of their right to suggest changes or offer ideas for the plan. Parents are allowed to make comments if they disagree with any aspect of the plan.
- * The Annual Meeting PowerPoint presentation will be used at each school.
- * The LEA plan will be put on the MCBE website as well as each Title I schools' website. Parents will be informed, through social media that the LEA plan and their school's plan can be found on both websites. Parents will be informed that they can be involved in the development of the plan by offering suggestions for revision to their parent leader or to the LEA.

2. Marion County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:

- *Each year a Title I School Planning Committee, made up of Title I teachers, regular classroom teachers, counselors, administrators, parent involvement personnel, and parents is formed at each school. After a study of the data and surveys completed by parents, teachers and administrators, the committee members have the opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions for improvements, and make recommendations as to the type of Title I program to be implemented for the coming year. They will discuss how the Title I program at their school will be designed, operated, and evaluated, and they will offer suggestions for any improvements in the Parent Involvement Plan and other topics covered during the meeting. Parents are provided the opportunity and encouraged to participate in these decisions.

3. Marion County Schools will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

- * The Parent/Community Liaison will send a survey in the spring to all Title I parents to ask for an evaluation of the program offered and to determine barriers to parental involvement.

- * Title I principals will meet with the Parent/Community Liaison, Federal Programs Coordinator, EL teacher, and parents to plan ways to reach parents.

4. Marion County Schools will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: by:

- * Appropriate newsletters will be sent home with all preschool students as well as all elementary students. Parents will be informed of various social media that will be used to keep parents informed as well as provide training for parents to help them increase their capacity to be involved in their child's education.

5. Marion County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement plan in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement plan and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents) its parental involvement policies.

- * The Parent/Community Liaison will construct a survey, based on the SDE template, to gain information from parents concerning the program offered for the current school year. The survey will be sent to the schools and they will send one home with each student. When the surveys are returned, they will be sent to the Parent/Community Liaison and she will compile the information. The results will be given to the principals to share with their school's Title I planning team. The results will also be shared with the parent leaders and they will use this information for planning for the next school year. This information will be shared at the Annual Meeting of Parents.

1. Marion County Schools will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, through the following activities specifically described below:

- A. The school district will, with the assistance of its Title I, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school district or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph --

- the State’s academic content standards,
- the State’s student academic achievement standards,
- the State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Part A,
- how to monitor their child’s progress, and
- how to work with educators:

* The school system has a Twitter account, an Instagram account, and a Facebook account. We use social media accounts to post current events in our schools, post pictures of learning activities in the classroom and current athletic events. Posts are also linked to a feed on our MCBE system website. Schools have or will have a Facebook page as well as a district Parental Engagement page and an EL page where we will be able to post helpful videos and keep parents current on school news and events. We will measure the effectiveness of using social media by the number of followers, friends, hits, etc. that we get.

* School Cast is used to effectively keep parents informed on school closings, early dismissals, and delays. This is also a means of informing or reminding parents of school pictures, special assemblies and other events at the school.

* Newsletters or videos describing requirements of the Title I law, such as the compact, what it means to be a school-wide Title I parent, and tips on making your parent/teacher conference successful. Links to newsletters or the newsletter itself will be posted on social media accounts.

*Every student in the school has a compact on file in the regular teacher’s classroom. It describes how parents, the school staff, and Title I students will share responsibility for improved student academic achievement. The compact is to be signed by the parent, student and a school representative.

* Parents are encouraged to support their child’s academic achievement by using the Power School parent portal for current information on their child’s grades.

* At the beginning of each school year, all parents of students enrolled in Title I served schools are given a copy of the Parent’s Right-to-Know informing them of their right to request information about teachers and paraprofessionals in their child’s school.

B. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools, provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children’s academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:

*School-wide parents receive information to help them be involved in their child’s education through newsletters, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and the MCBE website.

*Title I parents are encouraged to attend the parent-teacher conferences on the day set aside in the system calendar as well as other times, as needed. The school has an open-door policy with parents to meet with the classroom teachers, Title I teachers, and the principal. The school asks that the parents make an appointment with the teachers during their planning periods or before and after school hours. Teachers have many informal discussions of student progress with parents through phone calls, formal

progress reports, and casual conversations. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and participate in their child's classroom activities.

- C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
- On the spring survey parents are given the opportunity to indicate preferred activities.
 - On the spring survey parents are given the opportunity to indicate a preferred method of communication with the school. District-wide, 77% of the respondents preferred telephone/text, 15% preferred written notices, 3% preferred social media, and 5% preferred email. Survey data is used to write the schools' CIP. Included in this plan are ways to implement and coordinate the school's parent programs and activities.
- D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Reading First, Early Reading First, Even Start, Home Instruction Programs for Preschool Youngsters, the Parents as Teachers Program, and public preschool and other programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children, by:
- * Appropriate newsletters will be sent home with all preschool students as well as regular elementary students.
 - * Pre-K parents will be notified of all social media opportunities.
- E. The school district will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent- programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
- * The Title I Program ensures that all parents of Title I students receive information and school reports. The EL teacher is fluent in Spanish and we use Google Translate for all languages. TRANSACT is used to obtain forms in all languages.
 - *The Parent/Community Liaison and ESL teacher are planning a parent night for ESL parents. Parents will be shown how to help their child at home and have parenting resources available in their language. The Hispanic parent leader will be on hand to translate as needed.

PART III. Discretionary LEA Parental Involvement Plan Components

NOTE: Marion County Schools chooses to offer the following discretionary activities in an effort to build capacity in parents to be involved in the education of their child. These activities are listed under section 1118(e) of the ESEA:

- involving parents in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training;
- paying reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental involvement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions;
- training parents to enhance the involvement of other parents;
- in order to maximize parental involvement and participation in their children's education, arranging school meetings at a variety of times;
- establishing a LEA parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]

The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before 10/31/19

Plan Approved By : Marion County Board of Education

DATE OF APPROVAL: October 23, 2019