

Marengo County Schools

Parent Involvement Plan

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# Marengo County Parental Involvement Policy

## PART I. GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

The Marengo County School District agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- The school district 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, the school district 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.
- The school district will incorporate this district wide parental involvement policy 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, the school district 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 school district will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school district submits the plan to the State Department of Education.
- The school district 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 95 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
- The school district 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 DISTRICT WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. The Marengo County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district wide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
  - Parent Advisory Committees, at each Title I school and at the system level, meet two times a year. Parents are offered a flexible number of meetings in morning and evening to ensure that parents can attend and participate. Representatives from parent groups and agencies are also asked to participate.
  - A copy of the LEA Parental Involvement Plan is available in each school's library and school office as well as on the Marengo County Public Schools website.
  - Parents from the Marengo County Parental Involvement Advisory Committee are asked to serve on the Federal Programs Advisory Committee. At the school and system level parents are involved in the decisions on how federal funds are spent.
  - Parents are given the opportunity to participate in all school and system-wide advisory committees.
  - Notification to parents of meetings is done via a variety of contact strategies; letters, school website, memos, and newsletters.
  - As members of the school level parent advisory committee parents will help; develop Home-School Compacts that reflect the responsibility of the school, teacher, parent and student in working toward student success, plan and review the school's Title I Plan and Parental Involvement Plan.
  
2. The Marengo County School District will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
  - Parents are included as members of the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP) team at each school to assist in developing the CIP.
  - Parents are given the opportunity to participate in all system wide advisory committees such as; the Professional Development Planning Committee, the Policy Revision committee, and At-Risk Planning Committees to make decisions regarding the use of federal funds.
  - At the beginning of each school year the Marengo County Board of Education will notify the parents of each student attending any school in the school system that the parent/guardian may request information regarding the professional qualifications of the student's classroom teacher.
  - The school will provide timely notice to parents/guardians that their student has been assigned to or is being taught for four or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who is not certified in the grade level or content area assigned for instruction.
  - Parents serve on a system-wide committee to develop a policy for community stakeholders to follow when a disagreement cannot be resolved at the school level.

3. The Marengo County School District will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:
  - During Title I meetings parent involvement and professional development is presented. Information on agencies offering family assistance services is made available during these meetings.
  - A parent survey is conducted annually as a part of the Title I needs assessment at the school level.
  
4. The Marengo County School District will coordinate and integrate parental involvement strategies in Part A with parental involvement strategies under the following other programs: Family Resource Center, Marengo County Extension Center, Marengo County Health Department, 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers, Department of Human Resources, DA's Office, Juvenile Justice Resource Team, and Head Start by:
  - Making information and presenters available at the meetings held for the counselors, Title I staff, principals, and individual schools' staff.
  - Title I schools are given the opportunity to participate in professional development for building capacity for parental involvement through book studies and other professional development opportunities.
  - The Marengo County Public School will collaborate with presenters from the above listed agencies to present a series of parent workshops on parenting strategies.
  
5. The Marengo County School District will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy 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 policy 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.
  - Title I staff at each Title I school will survey parents and analyze the responses to determine how well the needs of parents and the requirements of NCLB are being met. Changes in procedures will be implemented based on the approval of the committee. Parent comments of concern, discontent, or disagreement with the current programs will be sent to the Federal Programs Coordinator and to the Federal Programs Director of the State Department of Education.

- Some schools also conduct a parent perceptions survey to determine the parents' perceptions of their child's school's environment.
1. The Marengo County School District 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:
      - 1) Schools will provide student assessment results to parents of participating students, (to include the School Report Card, the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) reports, Skills-Based Report Cards for students in Kindergarten, DIBELS, ADAW, Stanford 10/ARMT, and STAR/STAR EL results.)
      - 2) The results of the "State Superintendent's Report Card" and the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results are published in the local newspapers and copies are sent home to parents. The results are used in the development of Title I School-wide, and School Improvement Plans and the LEA Improvement Plan. The results are also shared with the public through the school system website and at the parent-teacher organization meetings.
      - 3) Marengo County will identify for school improvement any school that has failed to make adequate yearly progress as defined by the criteria established in the state plan. The AYP Report is provided to the local schools for distribution and published in the local papers. Schools that are identified for school improvement will develop a School Improvement Plan, following the state model. The system will implement a plan for providing School Choice to any parent who wants to transfer their student(s) from an identified school in need of improvement to a school in clear status.
      - 4) Notification of the parents' right to receive information regarding highly qualified status of personnel in Marengo County will be posted on the system website, in the Marengo County Public Schools Student Handbook and Code of Conduct, and in letters sent home. Information concerning Marengo County's progress toward 100% of teachers and paraprofessionals being highly qualified will be available on the System and School Annual Report Card and on the Alabama SDE's website.

- 5) Parent-Teacher Organizations and community workshops provide parents with the understanding needed to interpret assessment scores and help their children improve academically. These are conducted by the principals, school staff, and central office staff.
- 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:
- Discovery Learning, a software program, is accessible at home for parents to help their children as well as USA Test Prep and Accelerated Reader.
  - School counselors will assist families in finding resources and/or providing referrals to agencies to address their family's needs.
  - A series of Parent Workshops are held to help parents improve their parenting skills.
- 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:
- Professional development is conducted each school year on the elimination of barriers during the registration process.
  - Response to Instruction (RtI) is functioning at all schools. Parents are invited to participate in the meetings of these committees.
  - All schools participate in October Parent Month activities and interested families participate in the statewide family poster contest.
- 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:
- Referring families to services offered by the Marengo County Extension Service and Family Resource Center.
  - Referring families to local agencies such as the Department of Human Resources and Marengo County Health Department.

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:

- Each Title I school distributes their school's parental involvement plan to families via the school website
- Notices for parent meetings are given via letters and via telephone using the Crisis Caller notification system

### **PART III. DISCRETIONARY DISTRICT WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

The Marengo County Public Schools in consultation with its parents chooses to undertake the following activities to build parents' capacity for involvement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities 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;
- providing necessary literacy training for parents from Title I, Part A funds, if the school district has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for 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, or conducting in-home conferences between teachers or other educators, who work directly with participating children, with parents who are unable to attend those conferences at school;
- adopting and implementing model approaches to improving parental involvement;
- establishing a district wide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A programs;
- developing appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parental involvement activities; and
- providing other reasonable support for parental involvement activities under section 1118 as parents may request.]