



# **Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement**

Sweet Water High School

Marengo County Board of Education

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## **Introduction**

All Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools must complete the following diagnostics: the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic, the Parent Involvement Diagnostic, the Coordination of Resource/Comprehensive Budget Diagnostic, and EITHER the Title I Targeted Assistance Diagnostic OR the Title I Schoolwide Diagnostic. Parent Survey must be done annually, but it can be done electronically or by paper.

## **Strategies to Increase Parental Involvement**

**1. Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved.**

Federal Programs Director, Stephanie Pope will conduct an annual Title I parental meeting to review the school districts utilization of Title I resources. To ensure that all parents have access to this information, Mrs. Pope also conducts two Title I meetings at the central office, located in Linden, for the convenience of all community members and parents within Marengo County. These resources include School Cast, After School Tutoring, Home to School Connection Fliers, as well as other resources. Information concerning Title I can also be found on the school district web site.

**2. Describe: 1) How there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered; 2) How parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school.**

Because of the rural location of our school and our existing open door policy, parents agree that there is not a need for more than one Title I meeting per year at our individual school. During that meeting they are informed of their rights to be involved in the planning, and review and improvement of all Title I programs and plans. Pamphlets are available in the school library to provide further information. Any question concerning Title I programs and plans can be directed to Federal Programs Director Stephanie Pope. However, Mrs. Pope does hold two additional Title I meetings at the central office, located in Linden, for the parents convenience.

There is a Title I Advisory Committee, comprised of parents, teachers, and administrators, from each school within Marengo County, that meets to develop and review the Title I plans each year. Our school also includes parents on our school leadership team and they assist in the development and revision of the CIP, Parental Involvement Plan, and Home/School Compact.

Parental set asides include the funding for School Cast which is vital to ensuring that parents and the school have a clear line of communication.

**3. Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children.**

All Title I programs that are available are listed on the district web site for parents to review. Parents are informed of curriculum decisions and academic assessments, as well as achievement expectations through progress reports, report card, letters, announcements during PTO meetings, parent conferences, teacher syllabi and newsletters and School Cast. Marengo County makes available a language conversion program (TransACT) to translate any written documents as needed. Parents are represented through the school leadership team.

**4. Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated).**

The compacts are evaluated and issued yearly. The school-parent compact is issued yearly for student and parent signatures and kept on file in the homeroom teacher's classroom. During conferences, the compacts are used to remind and clarify the expectations of students and parents in reference to academic achievement and behavior. The parents share an equal role in the educational outcomes and goals of their children, and the school staff makes sure their instruction is unified through development and implementation of pacing guides based on College and Career Ready Standards. The School-Parent compact is reviewed and adjustments are made accordingly through parent/teacher conferences and parent visitation in the classroom. An example of a shared responsibility includes: Teachers will provide quality instruction based on College and Career Ready Standards. Parents agree to monitor their children's assignments and assist in any homework assigned. Students agree to complete their homework daily, to the best of their ability. This compact is updated each school year during a parental involvement meeting with representatives from all stakeholder groups participating.

**5. Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan.**

Parents are invited to participate in developing the Continuous Improvement Plan. This plan will be posted on the school's website. If parents are not satisfied or have questions, they may submit comments through email to the principal or to the district Federal Programs Director or by contacting the Marengo County School Board Office.

**6a. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall provide training for parents of participating children in understanding such topics as the State's academic content standards and State student academic achievement standards, State and local academic assessments, the requirements of Title I, and how to monitor their child's progress and work with teachers to improve the achievement of their children. (Describe)**

Parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children through parent workshops that address assessment, data, academic achievement, and scholarship opportunities. As a result of these workshops, parents should become liaisons between the school and their students to ensure academic success and monitor their children's progress. Parents are also encouraged to participate and become equal partners in educating their children during the annual Title I Parent Meeting. The district federal programs directors conducts these meetings to inform parents of their rights and responsibilities according to Title I requirements.

**6b. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve**

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**student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (Describe)**

Parents will be provided with the necessary resources to monitor their children's progress. These resources may also be located at the school office or counselor's office for parents to collect when needed. During parent workshops, training on using the necessary technology will also be provided. The school has held sessions facilitated by AMSTI and other specialists for the purpose of educating parents about the educational programs and ways to help their children. A home school connection letter will be sent out to provide information involving Sweet Water High School.

**6c. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school staff, with the assistance of parents, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between parents and the school. (Describe)**

School employees will participate in professional development to improve communicate with parents. As a result of this training, teachers are implementing a plan to contact parents to inform them of something positive about their child each month. Parents are also encouraged to volunteer at the school and to visit classroom. The district also provides professional development on how to reach out to parents to encourage them to become equal partners.

**6d. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal 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.(Describe)**

At SWHS parents are seen as full partners in their student's school success. We solicit input from parents in a variety of ways that include our website, parent surveys, parent committees, and parent participation in PTO and other booster organizations. However, above all we employ an open door philosophy. We ensure that parents are always made welcome at SWHS, and we strive to ensure that their feedback is valued. We provide resources, as needed, to parents for at home reinforcement of the standards being taught at school. We also provide a monthly Home and School Connections that gives parents tips assisting their children with homework and other academic activities. GEAR Up also provides periodic parent education opportunities.

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**6e. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (Describe)**

When needed, forms, letters and other communication will be translated to the home language of a student through the use of websites such as TransAct and Google Translator.

**6f. Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See NCLB Section 1118, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)**

**To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:**

**Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)**

We encourage open communication between parents and teachers at all grade levels and in all subject areas. Some examples of this are teacher newsletters, school wide newsletters, the School and Home Connection, the issuing of mid nine week and nine week progress reports, STI Home Portal, School Cast, teacher conferences, and parents volunteering in a variety of ways within our school. Sweet Water High School also employs an open door policy, welcoming parents to make suggestions concerning the continuous improvement of the school.

**7. Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory students; including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language that parents can understand.**

School reports and information will be provided in a format that the parents can understand at the request of the parent. Parents will be informed of parent programs and meetings through School Cast, school memos, and notification on the school website. Sweet Water High School will use websites such as TransAct that will translate forms and documents for ELL parents. SWHS also utilizes the school's Facebook page to communicate with parents.