

ASHWORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Achieving, Motivating, Succeeding

Parent and Family Engagement Policy and Plan for Shared Student Success

2017–2018 School Year

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Plan Revised: 6/14/2017

What is Title I?

Ashworth Middle School is identified as a Title I Reward School. Title I is designed to support State and local school reform efforts tied to challenging state academic standards in reinforce and enhance efforts to improve teaching and learning for students. Title I programs must be based on effective means of improving student achievement and include strategies to support parent and family engagement. All Title I schools must jointly develop, with all parents, a written parent and family engagement policy.

School Plan for Shared Student Achievement

What is it?

This is a plan that describes how Ashworth Middle School will provide opportunities to improve parent and family engagement to support student learning. Ashworth Middle values the contributions and involvement of parents to establish an equal partnership for the common goal of improving student achievement. This plan describes the different ways that Ashworth Middle School will support parent and family engagement and how parents can help plan and participate in activities and events to promote student learning at school and at home.

How is it revised?

Ashworth Middle School offered multiple opportunities for the parent and family engagement policy to be revised. Input was sought at all parent meetings/events, a paper copy of the plan was available for review and evaluation at the Parent Resource room at all times, parent input was sought via parent surveys, and school quarterly newsletters also invited parents to provide input on this policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the parent and family engagement budget. Additionally, parent input and comments regarding this plan are welcomed during the school year through an online contact feature. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. We also distribute an annual survey online to ask parents for their suggestions on the use of funds for parent and family engagement. Parents can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year. Feedback is shared with the District Title I office. All parents were invited to attend a Spring Parent Input Meeting to provide feedback on the revisions. Parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year.

Who is it for?

All students participating in the Title I, Part A program, and their families, are encouraged and invited to fully participate in the opportunities described in this plan. Ashworth Middle School will provide full opportunity for the participation of parents with limited English, parents with disabilities and parents of migratory children.

Where is it available?

The plan will be posted on the school website. Parents can also retrieve a copy of the plan in the Parent Resource room and in the school lobby.

2017–18 District Goals

All Gordon County Schools' students will increase academic achievement in Pre-K through 12th grade through the use of data-driven decision-making and instruction that ensures a rigorous, collaborative, engaging learning environment that is both safe and nurturing.

2017–18 School Goals

Grades 6-8 Reading/ELA:

All students will increase their achievement in Reading/ELA on the *Georgia Milestones End of Grade Test* at the end of the 2018 school year.

Grades 6-8 Math:

All students will increase their achievement in Math on the *Georgia Milestones End of Grade Test* at the end of the 2018 school year.

School-Parent Compacts

As part of this plan, Ashworth Middle and our families will develop a school-parent compact. This compact is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students develop that explains how parents, the entire school staff, and students will work together to make sure all our students reach the State's high standards. Compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers. The compact is reviewed at conferences. Parents will keep the compact for reference.

Let's Get Together!

Ashworth Middle will host the following events to build the capacity for strong parent and family engagement to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement.

Open House "Warrior Welcome" – August 2, 2017 (4:00-6:00 pm)

Meet your child's teacher and our friendly and helpful school staff.

Back to School Dance – August 18, 2017

Volunteer Orientation – September 1, 2017

Meet the District Family Engagement Specialist and sign up for volunteering this school year.

Student of the Month Breakfast – September 8, October 20, November 10, and December 8, 2017; January 12, February 9, March 9, April 13, and May 11, 2018

These are held monthly and will continue until the end of the school year. Come enjoy breakfast with your child and gain insightful information.

Annual Title I Meeting/Open House – September 19, 2017 (5:00-7:00 pm)

AMS invites you to an evening of learning and sharing about our Title I program, including our parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, the school-parent compacts, and parents' rights and requirements. Invitations will be posted on the school website, social media, and parent link calls.

Stand Up to Bullying Day – October 25, 2017 (all day)

ASPIRE – October 19, 2017

Parents of special education students will learn how to involve students in the IEP process.

Infinite Campus Parent Portal Night – November 17, 2017

Parents and students – Come out for a night of learning how to use the Infinite Campus Parent Portal application to enhance your knowledge of your student's academic progress.

PTSO Events – Ongoing throughout the years.

6th Grade Orientation Meeting – May 3, 2018 (5:00-6:00 pm)

Meeting for upcoming 6th grade parents to learn about testing, scheduling, counseling, support, discipline, connection classes and sports.

Parent-Teacher Conferences – Ongoing throughout the year.

Scheduled updates on your child's progress, state academic standards, assessments, and assessment results.

Parent Resource Room

Through the establishment of a Parent Resource Room, Ashworth Middle School's Title I Parental Involvement Program provides informational materials on state assessments and Title I requirements. Also, the Parent Resource Area has materials to help with homework and the transition as students move from elementary school to middle school and transitioning into high school. A computer is available for parents to explore the Parent Portal and other educational resources.

Parent and Family Engagement

Ashworth Middle School believes that parent and family engagement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

- That parents play an integral role in assisting in their child's learning.
- That parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school.
- 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.
- The carrying out of other activities as described in this plan.

Ashworth Middle School Achieving, Motivating, Succeeding

Ashworth Middle will take the following measures to promote and support parents as an important foundation of the school in order to strengthen the school and reach our school goals. We will:

- ✓ Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, academic standards, curriculum, and assessments, as well as ways parents can monitor their child's progress and work with educators is posted on the school website, social media, and Remind 101. Information will be available in a format and language that is understandable in the home.
- ✓ Communicate with all families and the community on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities in a format and language that is understandable in the home.
- ✓ Provide trainings for staff on strategies to improve communication with parents and ideas to increase family and parent engagement. Staff will also share best practices at faculty meetings.
- ✓ Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their child's achievements.
- ✓ Use our Partners in Education and PTSO to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement policy.
- ✓ Invite parents to see what their child is learning and how they can help at home.
- ✓ Collect feedback from parents at all events, place input forms around the building and post suggestion forms on the school website in order to respond to parent's request for additional support for parent and family engagement activities.

Ashworth Middle School is committed to helping our parents attend the activities listed in this plan. Please call or email us if you need assistance in order to participate in our programs or would like more opportunities to meet to improve student achievement.
706.625.9545 or shill@gcbe.org

Parent and Family Engagement Standards

Ashworth Middle School and our parents have adopted the National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the school's model in engaging parents, students, and the community. These standards are:

1. Welcome All Families
2. Communicate Effectively
3. Support Student Success
4. Speak Up for Every Child
5. Share Power
6. Collaborate with the Community

Parent Teacher Student Organization

Ashworth Middle School invites any parent to join the PTSO to share ideas and ways to build partnerships with the school, families, and the community. Parents are encouraged to join the PTSO so they can have a greater voice in the school's efforts to better meet the needs of our students, their families, and our community. Parents can also submit their ideas or suggestions at all school activities and meetings, through parent surveys and on the school website. If you would like to learn more about the PTSO, please contact Mr. McClanahan at 706/625-9545 or smcclanahan@gcbe.org.

Parent Teacher Organization (PTSO)

- Yes, I am interested and wish to join the PTSO
- Please contact me so I can learn more about the PTSO
- Please send me notifications about future meetings and updates

Name: _____

Child's Name and Grade: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email address: _____

Share Your Thoughts

We want to hear from you. If you have any suggestions or if there is any part of this plan that you feel is not satisfactory with the students' and the school's goals for academic achievement, please provide us with your comments in the space provided and leave this form in the Main Office:

Name: (optional) _____

Telephone Number: (optional) _____
