



McDowell County Schools

District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

To make sure there is effective engagement of parents and to support a partnership with parents and the community, each Title I school and district will assist to improve student achievement:

1. Provide to parents of Title children assistance in understanding the **State academic standards**, the **state and local academic assessments**, the parent and family engagement **rights** of Title I, how to **monitor their child's progress**, and **work with their child's teachers** to improve the academic success of their child.
2. Provide **materials and training** to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. This could be literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental engagement.
3. Educate teachers, pupil services personnel, principals and other 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 schools.
4. When possible and appropriate, coordinate and **integrate parent engagement** programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool programs, and conduct activities together, such as parent resource centers, which encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children.
5. Ensure when possible that information related to the 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**.

McDowell County Schools District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy

McDowell County Schools are committed to the goal of providing quality education for every child in this district. We want to establish partnerships with parents and with the community. Everyone gains if the school and home work together to support high achievement of our children. We can't do this job alone. Parents and families play an extremely important role as children's first teachers. Their support for their children and for the school is critical to their children's success at every step along the way.

Relationships are critical for student success.

Part I. General Expectations

McDowell County Schools agrees to implement the following requirements:

1. The school district will put **into operation programs, activities and procedures for the engagement of parents and family members** in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1116 of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.
2. Consistent with section 1116 of the ESEA, the school district will work with its schools to ensure that the required school-level parent and family engagement policies meet the requirements of section 1116(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a **school-parent compact** consistent with section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
3. In carrying out the Title I, Part A parent and family engagement requirements to the extent practicable, the school district and its schools will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, limited literacy, disabilities, of migratory children, who are economically disadvantaged, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background, including providing information and school reports required under Section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, **in a language parents understand**.
4. The school district will incorporate this **district wide parent and family engagement policy** into its district plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.
5. 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.
6. 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 parent and family engagement is spent**, and will ensure that not less than 90 percent of the one percent reserved goes directly to the schools.
7. The school district will be governed by the following statutory **definition of “parent and family engagement,”** and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition:

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—

- (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; and
- (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1116 of the ESEA.

Part II. Description of How the District Will Implement Required District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

1. McDowell County Schools will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its district-wide parent and family engagement plan under section 1116 of the ESEA:
 - McDowell County Schools will engage parents and families to develop and revise the policy annually during the **April Family Advisory Council Meeting**. The agenda will be posted in advance and advertised for families to be aware of the opportunity to provide input.
 - Families may provide input throughout the school year via email notice and/or via the Parent Comment Box provided on district **LEA Title I website**.
2. McDowell County Schools will take the following actions to engage the parents and families in jointly developing the district Title I plan under section 1112 of the ESEA, as part of the consolidated plan and the development and review of the Schoolwide or Title I Targeted Assistance Plan. If applicable the Comprehensive Support and Improvement and the Targeted Support and Improvement plan in the schools' identified for improvement plans under section 1111(d)(1)-(2) of the ESEA:
 - The district-wide plan will be developed in accordance with **state-provided guidelines**. All Parents will have the opportunity to comment upon the plan as necessary.
 - McDowell County Schools will engage parents and families to develop the district LEA and consolidated plan during the **April Family Advisory Council Meeting**. The agenda will be posted in advance and advertised for families to be aware of the opportunity to provide input.
 - Family input provided on **school level family surveys will be evaluated and analyzed** as the district LEA consolidated plan is developed.
 - Families of Comprehensive Support Schools provide input via **an electronic survey** that the district leadership and school leadership team use for planning.
3. McDowell County Schools will coordinate technical assistance and other support that is necessary to build the capacity of staff in planning and implementing effective parent and family engagement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance.
 - McDowell County Schools provides regular, **meaningful technical assistance and professional development** to all stakeholders to assist with building effective parent and family engagement.
 - Community and business partners are invited and attend the **monthly Family Advisory Council Meeting** to collaborate and strengthen partnerships with families and the LEA.
4. McDowell County Schools will coordinate and integrate with federal, state and local programs, including public preschool programs, to implement effective parent and family engagement strategies that improve student achievement and school performance.
 - Invitations are extended to parents of PreK students as well as Head Start representatives to attend **annual screening clinics**.
 - McDowell County Schools **collaborates fully with Coalfield CAP Headstart, Birth to Three, and local daycare facilities** to provide effective parent and family engagement strategies. Professional development opportunities are of
 - fered to all community organizations affiliated with preschool programs.
5. McDowell County Schools will take the following actions to conduct, with the engagement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy (programs/activities) in improving the academic achievement of Title I, Part

A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parent and family engagement 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 needs of parents and family members to assist with the learning of their children, including engaging with school personnel and teachers; and strategies to support successful school and family interactions. The school district will use the findings of the evaluation about its parent and family engagement policy and activities to design evidenced-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parent and family engagement policies.

- Reviewing and evaluating the parent and family engagement activities/programs.
 - 1) **Identify barriers and the needs of parents and family members** that keep them from participating in their child's education especially the economically disadvantaged, disabled, limited English proficiency or any racial or ethnic minority.
 - 2) Identify **the needs of the Title I parents and family members** to assist the learning of their children and the teachers and school staff.
 - 3) **Identify strategies** to support successful school and family interactions.
 - Annually in May of each school year, **the district holds a joint evaluation meeting** where families and parents are invited to join together from each Title I school to provide feedback and input on strengthening partnerships, identify barriers at both school and district levels, develop strategies and improve our Title I Program. Title I Staff and school administrators also provide valuable insight and review compliance expectations.
6. McDowell County Schools use the findings of the evaluation to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parent and family engagement as necessary and to revise the parent and family engagement policy as necessary.
- **Annual Family and Parent Title I School surveys** provide a wealth of information on how we can make family engagement more effective to meet the needs of our families. This data is used in addition to meeting feedback, staff input, as well as input from the end of the year evaluation meeting with representation from all Title I Schools.
7. McDowell County Schools will engage parents in activities at the McDowell County Schools. This could be establishing a parent advisory board that represents the population of Title I parents and family members, that develops, evaluates and reviews or revises the parent and family engagement policy.
- McDowell County Schools meets **monthly with the Family Advisory Council** for our district.
8. McDowell County Schools will engage parents and family members of the children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement is spent and will ensure that not less than 90 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools.
- McDowell County Schools gathers feedback and input from parents and family members during the program **evaluation meeting held in May of each year**. Feedback is also solicited from parents during **monthly Family Advisory Council Meetings**.
9. McDowell County Schools will meet the requirements of parent and family engagement of Title I, to the extent practicable, we will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with children with limited English proficiency, parents with children with disabilities, and parents

of migratory children, including providing information and school reports in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents can understand.

- McDowell County Schools ensures that all families of all children have the opportunity for parent participation. The **Special Education Director as well as the EL Coordinator** for the district are involved in the planning and monitoring of this policy. MCS ensures that all information including reports are translated into their home language if needed.
- McDowell County School's **Homeless liaison and Foster Care liaison** of the LEA ensure that families are connected with the resources they need to be successful and provide immediate support and information to families as needed.

10. McDowell County Schools will build the schools' and parent's capacity for strong parent and family engagement, in order to ensure effective engagement 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 below --

- the State's challenging academic standards,
- the State and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments,
- the requirements of Title I, Part A,
- how to monitor their child's progress, and
- how to collaborate with educators:

- These topics will be addressed during the **monthly Family Advisory Council Meetings**. Our schools will also address these topics during their **Annual Title I Fall Open House Meetings** held in the fall of the school year.

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 parent and family engagement, by:

- During the **monthly Family Advisory Council Meetings**, parent trainings will be held on how they can help improve their child's academic achievement at home. All materials needed will be provided at these meetings.
- During the school's **APTT events**, parents and families will be exposed to educational activities that can be conducted at home to help increase academic achievement. All materials needed will be provided at these events.

C. The school district will, with the assistance of its schools and parents, educate its teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals and other school leaders, 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:

- All district-wide staff will complete the **annual Working with Parents training** each school year.

D. The school district will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and

integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other relevant Federal, State, and local 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:

- Host child-find activities throughout the school year
- Attend and collaborate at the McDowell County Creating Strong Families meetings and events

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:

- All Title I schools will record all parent and family communication for school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities within their school OneDrive folder for documentation purposes. The LEA will monitor the documentation within the school OneDrive folder throughout the school year.

Part III. Discretionary District-Wide Parent and Family Engagement Policy Components

McDowell County Schools parent and family engagement policy may include additional sections that list and describe other discretionary activities that the school district, in consultation with its parents, chooses to undertake to build parents' capacity for engagement in the school and school system to support their children's academic achievement. These activities, as listed under the section 1116(e) of ESEA, may include:

1. **Engage parents in the development of training** for teachers, principals and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
2. Provide 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.
3. **Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parental engagement activities**, including transportation and child care costs, to enable parents to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
4. **Train parents** to enhance the engagement of other parents.
5. In order to maximize parental engagement and participation in their children's education, arrange **school meetings at a variety of times**, or conduct 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.
6. Adopt and implement **model approaches** to improving parental engagement.
7. Establish a **district parent advisory council** to provide advice on all matters related to parental involvement in Title I, Part A, programs.
8. **Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses**, including faith-based organizations, in parental engagement activities.
9. Provide other reasonable support for parental engagement activities identified under section 1116 as parents may request.

Part IV. Adoption

The McDowell County Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I programs, as evidenced by agendas and sign-in sheets.

On **April 27, 2026** the McDowell County Schools Parent and Family Engagement Policy will be in effect for the period of the school year.

McDowell County Schools will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I children and make it available to the community. The district will share this policy on the LEA website and within the MCS county calendar with every child at the beginning of the school year (as new enrollees enroll).