BERRIEN MIDDLE SCHOOL
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Parent & Family Engagement Plan
2026-2027

Revised August 3, 2026

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Berrien Middle receives Title I, Part A funds. Section 1116 of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that each school served under Title I, Part A, develop jointly with, agree with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children, a written parent and family engagement plan. This plan establishes the school's expectations for parent and family engagement and describes how the school will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities and is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local education agency (LEA).

Berrien Middle School agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve parents, in an organized, ongoing, and timely way, in the planning, review, and improvement of programs under Title I, Part A, including the planning, review, and improvement of the school's parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the schoolwide program plan under Section 1114(b) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).
- Update the school's parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of the parents and the school, distribute it to the parents of participating children, and make the parent and family engagement policy available to the local community.
- Provide full opportunities, to the extent practicable, 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format to include alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- If the schoolwide program under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, submit any parent comments on the plan when the school makes the plan available to the local education agency.
- Be governed by the following statutory definition of parent and family engagement and 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. Parents play an integral role in assisting their children's learning.
B. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's education at school.
C. Parents are full partners in their children's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their children.
D. Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of ESSA.

DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL PARENT & FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS

Jointly Developed

Berrien Middle School will take the following actions to involve parents in an organized, ongoing, and timely manner in the planning, review, and improvement of Title I programs, including opportunities for regular meetings, if requested by parents, to formulate suggestions and to participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to the education of their children and respond to any such suggestions as soon as feasibly possible.

BMS Open House (August 2026)

For sixth graders and their parents, Open House will serve as an opportunity to tour Berrien Middle School and meet students' teachers as they transition to middle school. For seventh and eighth graders and their parents, Open House will serve as an opportunity to meet students' teachers for the upcoming school year.

BMS 6th Grade Orientation (August 2026)

For incoming sixth graders and their parents, 6th Grade Orientation will serve as an opportunity for incoming 6th graders and families to learn about the differences in elementary and middle school and ask any questions about the transitioning process.

Annual Planning Meetings/Surveys (January-June 2027)

Throughout the Spring Semester, parents of all sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students will be invited to attend a parent planning meeting and to submit online surveys to evaluate and suggest changes to the School-Compact, as well as the Parent and Family Engagement Plan.

Brochures (May 2027)

In order to help parents prepare their students for the next grade, informational brochures will be sent home with the final student report cards.

Upcoming Sixth Graders' Walkthrough (May 2027)

In an attempt to ease the transition from fifth to sixth grade, Berrien Elementary fifth grade students will visit Berrien Middle School at the end of their fifth-grade year. The students will tour the school, meet administrators, and receive important information about topics such as dress code, discipline policies, extracurricular activities, and academic teams. The students will tour the school with their elementary school teachers who will provide more discussion with the students when they return to their classes at BES.

Open Door Policy for Parents

Berrien Middle School maintains an open-door policy welcoming parent visitation. However, parents are encouraged to call ahead for an appointment with their students' teachers, teams, and/or administrators. Parents are invited to participate in Parent and Family Engagement activities held throughout the school year, as well as attend the annual BMS Honors' Programs and other types of student recognition programs and activities throughout the year.

Annual Title I Parent Meeting

Berrien Middle School will take actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage all parents of current students to attend in order to educate them about the school's Title I Program and requirements. This meeting also provides information to parents on their rights to be involved. It is scheduled at the beginning of the school year in August or September.

Communications

Berrien Middle School will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children needed information:

- Post Title I Program information on the school website and share information on the school's Facebook page.
- Host a flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with

Title I funds, transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.

- Send hard copies of information 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 and post those documents on the following:
    - School Webpage
    - Social Media (Facebook)

School-Parent Compact

As part of this plan, BMS and our families will develop a School-Parent Compact, which is an agreement that parents, teachers, and students will develop together that explains how parents and teachers will work together to make sure all BMS students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers.

Reservation of Funds

Berrien Middle School is committed to helping our parents attend the parental activities listed in this plan. Through meetings and parent surveys, parents of children served by Title I, Part A funds, can share in determining the best use of the 1% of funds allowed for parent and family engagement. Parents are asked to convey ideas for how these funds should be used to ensure they become more involved in school activities.

Coordination of Services

Berrien Middle School will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other 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 through the following actions:

- Coordinating Title I functions with Academic Parent Nights (example-STEAM Night)
- Offering a Parent Resource Center, including Chromebook use, in the BMS Media Center Monday-Wednesday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- Coordinating Telemed services

Building Capacity of Parents

Berrien Middle School 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:

- Ensure that all information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is published in English and Spanish, as well as posted on the school website.
- Communicate with parents on a regular basis regarding school-wide events and activities.
- Provide necessary materials for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their child to improve their children's achievements. Necessary materials supplied may include descriptions of curriculum standards, information regarding the types of assessments used locally and at the state level, strategies for parents to help their children at home, and information on how to help parents understand how to monitor their children's progress.
- Collaborate with community leaders and business groups to increase participation and awareness of the school parental involvement plan and activities.
- Use parent surveys to help identify needs and interest in learning opportunities.

Building Capacity of School Staff

Berrien Middle School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, as well as 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 the school by utilizing resources

such as online resources, webinars, training provided by the District I Title Coordinator, and ideas from the school leadership team. Reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities will be provided, as requested by parents, or identified by faculty and staff members.

Parent Surveys

Berrien Middle School encourages and values the home, community, and school connection. An effort is made throughout the year to provide opportunities of learning through varied experiences. Parent surveys help to identify needs and interests of learning opportunities, convenient meeting times, and dates throughout the year, and they also allow parents who cannot attend meetings to give valuable input. Surveys are posted on the school Facebook page at various times throughout the year, the school website, and on Chromebooks in the front office, when more information is needed.

Parent Institute Letters/Student-Parent Handbook

Parent Newsletters are provided monthly in English and Spanish and are posted on the school website. The Berrien Middle School Student-Parent Handbook addresses issues such as the school's dress code, policies and procedures, transportation, Title I, and Title II.

Parent Resource Center

The Berrien Middle School Parent Information Resource Center is located in the Media Center. Valuable information on study skills, test-taking advice, tips for busy parents, peer remediation strategies, and reading and math strategies are available to parents. Chromebooks are also available for parents to use to check their children's grades, attendance, benchmark sites, etc. Additional topics are added to the Parent Information Resource Center as needed, or as mentioned in the Spring Parent surveys.

***Please be sure to sign the cover page indicating that you have read and received the Berrien Middle School Parent and Family Engagement Plan. ***

Thank you!