School Parent and Family Engagement Policy

Miller County Schools (MCES, MCMS, MCHS)

2026-2027

Revised 04.14.26

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, Miller County Schools (Miller County Elementary, Miller County Middle, and Miller County High) receive Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by section 1116(b) and (c) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy 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 it is incorporated into the school's plan submitted to the local educational agency (LEA).

Miller County Schools agree 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 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 parent and family engagement policy periodically to meet the changing needs of 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, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the schoolwide program plan 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 educational 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 child's learning
(B) Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school
(C) 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) Other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

Miller County Schools 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 child and respond to any such suggestions as soon as practicably possible.

Miller County Schools each invited parents last spring to review and revise this parent and family engagement policy, as well as the schoolwide plan, our school-parent compact, and the family engagement budget. The plan is posted on our school website for parents to view and submit feedback throughout the year. All parent feedback received during the year will be used to revise the plan for the next school year. We also distribute an annual survey online and by mail to ask parents for their suggestions on the plan and the use of funds for family engagement. Parents and family members can also give feedback during several parent meetings and activities during the school year.

ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING

Miller County Schools will take the following actions to conduct an annual meeting, at a convenient time, and encourage and invite all parents of participating children to attend to inform them about the school's Title I program, the nature of the Title I program, the parents' requirements, the school parent and family engagement policy, the schoolwide plan, and the school-parent compact.

The Annual Title I Meetings are held in the fall of each year to inform parents of the requirements of Title I, each school's participation, and the parents' rights to be involved. The Annual Title I meeting is provided as an opportunity to disseminate information and distribute copies of the revised parent and family engagement policy.

COMMUNICATIONS

Miller County Schools will take the following actions to provide parents of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- Flexible number of meetings, such as meetings in the morning, evening, and/or virtual.
- Title I funds may provide transportation, child care or home visits, as such services relate to parent and family engagement.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the parents in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand.

The plan is distributed to all students. It is included in the new student registration packet, and posted on each schools administrative forms section of its website. All official Title I publications are available in print upon request.

SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT

Miller County Schools will jointly develop a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and establish the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

As part of this plan, Miller County Schools and our families will develop a school-parent compact. This agreement, developed by parents, teachers, and students, explains how parents and teachers will work together to ensure students reach grade-level standards. The compacts will be reviewed and updated annually based on feedback from parents, students, and teachers. The school-parent compacts also are shared with parents during parent-teacher conferences and kept with each child's teacher if parents need another copy.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, Miller County Schools will take the following actions to 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 by soliciting feedback from parents at our annual Summer School Improvement meetings in which we invite parents to attend. Parents are also free to provide feedback at any time during the school year by contacting any of the Miller County Schools Principals (Temika Brown & Jamie Ard) at 758-4140. Feedback may also be provided to Federal Programs Director Robert Green at any time during the school year at rgreen@miller.k12.ga.us or by calling (229) 758-5592.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Miller County Schools will, to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement programs and activities with other Federal, State, and local programs, including public preschool 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:

- Partnering with local businesses to reward students for academic growth.
- Partnering with local businesses and individuals to reward students for positive behavior.
- Partnering with ASPIRE to provide outside counseling for students who are in need of such services.
- Partnering with local businesses and individuals to provide mentors for students.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

Miller County Schools will build the parents' capacity for strong parent and family engagement to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following:

- Providing parents with a description and explanation of the curriculum in use at the school, the forms of academic assessments used to measure student progress, and the achievement levels of the challenging State academic standards; and
- Materials and training to help parents to work with their child to improve their child's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy), as appropriate, to foster parent and family engagement
- Providing assistance to parents of participating children, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following:
    - Georgia's state standards
    - The State and local academic assessments including alternate assessments
    - The requirements of Title I, Part A
    - How to monitor their child's progress
    - How to work with educators to improve the achievement of their child
    - Use Miller County School Councils to improve awareness of the activities and events listed in the school parent and family engagement policy.
    - Provide necessary materials and handouts for parents at conferences, meetings, and activities to help parents work with their students to improve their student's academic achievement.

Parents will be invited to take part in the following "Lunch and Learn" workshops at MCES:

- Understanding school reports in order to be able to understand data reports that are sent home throughout the school year.
- Understanding Lexiles "Lunch and Learn" so that parents better understand Lexiles and the importance of students striving to achieve grade level Lexile expectations.
- GMAS "Lunch and Learn" to help parents understand the structure of the assessment, ways to support their child in preparing for the testing window, and access to helpful online resources.

Note: These sessions are also recorded so that parents may review them at their convenience.

Parents will be invited to take part in the following activities at MCES

- Orientation Night(s) for parents and students to learn the expectations of their grade level and classroom teachers.
- Curriculum Nights that provide parents with opportunities to engage in and experience learning aligned to K–12 standards expectations.
- Parent-Teacher Conferences that offer dedicated time for families to meet with teachers to discuss student progress, review academic data, address individual needs, and collaborate on strategies to support learning at home.

Parents will be invited to take part in the following activities at MCMS

- Orientation Night(s) for parents and students transitioning to high school (9th Grade) & middle school (6th Grade).
- View instructional/ informative videos regarding MAP reports and curricular software.

Parents will be invited to take part in the following activities at MCHS.

- Orientation Night for parents and students transitioning to high school (9th Grade) to help prepare parents and their students for successful school transiting.
- FAFSA Workshop to aid parents and students in completing the FAFSA forms for college.
- View instructional/ informative videos regarding MAP reports and curricular software.

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

Miller County Schools will provide staff training in the value and utility of working with parents as equal partners to further build ties between parents and the schools. School Leadership Teams will create and review action steps and goals to ensure that parents have opportunities to learn how to be an active participant in improving student achievement.

Miller County Schools will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA.