Unicoi County Middle School

2026-2027

School Parent and Family Engagement Plan

Unicoi County Middle School receives Title I, Part A funds that aid in the support and success of our students' academic achievement. Accordingly, UCMS 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. It describes how the school will implement several specific parent and family engagement activities and incorporate them into the school's plan and submit them to the local educational agency (LEA).

What is a School-Parent Compact?

A School-Parent Compact is an agreement that families, students, and teachers develop jointly to explain how families and teachers will work together to make sure all students reach grade-level standards.

Effective Compacts:

- link goals to the District Improvement Plan;
- focus on student learning skills;
- describe how teachers will help students learn using high-quality instruction;
- share strategies families can use at home;
- explain how teachers and families will communicate about student progress.

Unicoi County Middle School, therefore, agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- Involve families 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 modification of the school parent and family engagement policy and the joint development of the school improvement 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 families and the school, distribute it to the families 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 families with limited English proficiency, families with disabilities, and families 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 families understand.
- If the school improvement plan under Section 1114(b) of the ESSA is not satisfactory to the families of participating children, submit any family 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 families in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

  (A) families play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;
  (B) families are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;
  (C) families 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) other activities are carried out, such as those described in Section 1116 of the ESSA.

Jointly Developed

The families, students, and staff at Unicoi County Middle School jointly developed the School-Parent Compact. Teachers set goals and suggested home learning strategies, families added ideas to make learning strategies more specific, and students completed a school climate survey. A survey is completed & meetings are held each year to review the compact and make changes based on student and family needs.

- Families will be invited annually to complete a survey related to the Title I programs and family engagement
- A Title I/Parent Involvement committee will be composed of faculty and staff, and parents. They will help review and revise, as needed, Learning Compacts, Family Involvement Plans, and other Title I-related items.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

If applicable, **Unicoi County Middle School** will have a Title I/Parent Involvement Committee composed of faculty, staff, and parents that will meet as needed to establish a Title I budget. This is meant to involve the families of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how Title I, Part A funds reserved for parent and family engagement are spent.

Building Partnerships & Family Learning

Unicoi County Middle School will offer four Family Engagement Nights during the 2026-27 school year. Information about each night will be sent home and shared on Unicoi Schools app and social media prior to the event.

School-Parent Communication About Student Learning

Unicoi County Middle School is committed to frequent two-way communication with families about students' learning & behavior. Some ways you can expect us to reach you are:

- ❖ Our School uses Synergy in which parents can monitor their child's daily attendance, behavior, and academic progress as it occurs each day.
- ❖ Information updates on the UCMS Facebook page.
- ❖ Unicoi County Schools app
- ❖ Google Classroom and Google Meets
- ❖ Progress reports and grade cards communicate academic progress.

- ❖ Our school also uses our student handbook to communicate all policies, procedures, and guidelines for behavior, attendance, school functions, rules, and daily planners for the organization of academic assignments, as well as all other types of relevant information.

Student Success & Learning Goals

Unicoi County Middle School Goals

The UCMS administrator and teachers have studied our student achievement data to determine the most important areas for improvement in our school's student learning.

Reading/ELA:
In 2026-27, students' reading proficiency will increase by 3%. Our school will concentrate on the following areas:

- Building reading fluency and comprehension of various types of texts; begin writing to explain and inform, as well as to give an opinion and create narratives
- Read, comprehend, and analyze texts fluently; write clearly to inform, explain, describe, and report information; use details to explain or prove ideas

Math:
In 2026-2027, students' math proficiency will increase by 3%. Our school will concentrate on the following areas:

- Number and Operations
- Algebra and Algebraic Thinking
- Measurement and Data
- Geometry

Teacher, families, and students- Together for success

In the Classroom

The classrooms will work with students and families to support students' success. Some of our key connections with families will be:

- To offer 4 Family Engagement Nights throughout the year.
- To provide communication between parents and teachers through Unicoi Schools App / Email / Social Media.
- To provide students with daily assignments listed on Google Classroom

At Home

UCMS families joined staff to develop ideas about how families can support students' success. Families can:

- Try to attend the 4 Family Engagement Nights throughout the year. If unable to attend, ask teachers for any important information
- Review Synergy for missing assignments and grades.
- Have your child read to you at least 20 minutes a day.
- Review their Google Classroom materials and notifications.

Unicoi County Middle School Students

UCMS students joined staff and families to develop ideas about how they can succeed in school. Students can:

- Talk with their family about their school day and what they are learning.
- Bring home class newsletters and other important information for their families.
- Check Unicoi Schools app daily
- Read every night for at least 20 minutes.
- Come to school each day, prepared and ready to learn.

If you have questions or concerns about your child's progress, contact your child's teacher by phone (423-735-0236) or e-mail to set up a time to meet.