



**Local Educational Agency (LEA)/District Level
Parent and Family Engagement Policy/Plan
*Morgan County Charter School System
2018-2019*
*Revision Date March 1, 2018***

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Morgan County Charter School System** receives Title I, Part A funds and therefore must jointly develop with, agree on with, and distribute to parents and family members of participating children a written parent and family engagement policy that contains information required by Section 1116(a)(2) of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The policy establishes the LEA's expectations and objectives for meaningful parent and family engagement and describes how the LEA will implement a number of specific parent and family engagement activities, and it is incorporated into the LEA's plan submitted to the Georgia Department of Education.

The Morgan County Charter School System agrees to implement the following requirements as outlined by Section 1116:

- 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. These programs, activities, and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents and family members of participating children.
- Consistent with Section 1116, 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 ESSA, and each include as a component a school-parent compact consistent with Section 1116(d) of the ESEA.
- 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 ESSA in an understandable and uniform format including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.
- 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.

- The school district will be governed by the following definition of parental involvement and expects that its Title I schools will carry out programs, activities, and procedures in accordance with this definition in Section 8101 of the ESSA:

Parental involvement 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 ESEA

JOINTLY DEVELOPED

The **Morgan County Charter School System** will take the following actions to involve parents and family members in jointly developing its LEA plan under Section 1112, and the development of support and improvement plans under paragraphs (1) and (2) of Section 1111(d) of the ESEA:

- Opportunities to attend open sessions for review of Improvement Plans and budget plans and provide feedback at the district level during the summer and school year.
- Opportunities for parents to provide feedback at parent engagement sessions provided by the district.
- Opportunities for parents to review the district plan on the Morgan County website.
- Opportunities for parents to review the plan at the school-level with Title 1 staff and provide feedback to the district.
- Opportunities for parents to provide feedback at the System Governance Meetings throughout the academic year.
- Opportunities for parents to provide feedback through parent surveys and other survey data collected throughout the academic year.
- Every Title 1 SW school will post on the school website a copy of the LEA Plan.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The **Morgan County Charter School System** will provide the following coordination, technical assistance, and other support necessary to assist and build capacity of all Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parent and family involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance, which may include meaningful consultation with employers, business leaders, and philanthropic organizations, or individuals with expertise in effectively engaging parents and family members in education:

- Providing opportunities for Title 1 teachers and administrators to attend Title 1 Technical Assistance meetings that include training on programs, activities, and strategies aligned to academic progress and student achievement and focusing on engaging Title 1 Parents.

- Providing opportunities for school and district staff to participate in professional learning at the district, state, and national level through workshops and conferences.
- Providing opportunities for school level Parent Involvement Coordinators to meet regularly to share resources and strategies.
- Providing updated community resources to assist schools in meeting the needs of Title 1 parents.
- Providing support for interpreters through the district ESOL teacher.
- LEA and Title 1 schools will communicate with parents the programs and practices of the school through regular newsletters, paper copies and/or website copy, in order to improve academic achievement and school performance.

ANNUAL EVALUATION

The **Morgan County Charter School System** will take the following actions to conduct, with the meaningful involvement of parents and family members, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parent and family engagement policy in improving the academic quality of its Title I, Part A schools. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in 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 evaluation will also include identifying 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 to design evidence-based strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary, its parent and family engagement policies.

- Each spring, school level Parent Involvement Coordinators and Administration will meet with district personnel to review the previous year's Parent and Staff Needs Assessments and discuss the goals for the new year's surveys. The committee will draft new surveys and publish them for review before they are finalized. Upon approval, district Title 1 staff will support schools in preparing the surveys for administration to teachers and parents. Two of the purposes of the surveys are to:
 - a. Identify needs of parents
 - b. Identify areas in which teachers require support for working with parents

The surveys are available online and on paper

- Throughout the year, school level Title 1 staff members provide parents with both formal and informal opportunities to discuss their needs and to evaluate programs.
- Every Title 1 school will provide information to parents in Spanish as well as English as needed.
- Every Title 1 school will promote parental involvement by offering parent meetings at a variety of times to accommodate parent schedules.

RESERVATION OF FUNDS

The **Morgan County Charter School System** will involve the parents and family members 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 1 percent reserved goes directly to Title I schools

- Every Title 1 school will promote parental involvement by offering parent meetings at a variety of times to accommodate parent schedules.

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

The **Morgan County Charter School System** will coordinate and integrate parent and family engagement strategies with parent and family engagement strategies, to the extent feasible and appropriate, with other relevant Federal, State, and local laws and programs: (*Head Start, local Pre-K Programs, Ferst Foundation, Family Connections, Madison-Morgan County Boys and Girls Club*) that encourage and support parents in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

The Morgan County Schools operate a pre-school program that addresses regular students and students with disabilities. The district encourages parental involvement with pre-kindergarten students to assist in the effort of school readiness.

Some of the activities throughout the year include:

- Back to School night (Parent Orientation) soon after school begins
- Technology Night
- Math Night
- Reading Night
- WOW (Working on the Work) Night
- Field Trips
- Graduation
- Academic information is sent home weekly
- A monthly newsletter-calendar is sent home
- Communication of student work and schoolwide/district/community events go home to parents
- Summer Reading Program (MCES) Strive for Five

BUILDING CAPACITY OF PARENTS

The **Morgan County Charter School System** will, with the assistance of its Title I schools, build parents' capacity for strong parental involvement by providing materials and training on such topics as literacy training and using technology (including education about the harms of copyright piracy) to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement. Assistance will also be provided to parents in understanding the following topics:

- The challenging State 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
- How to work with educators

The Morgan County Charter School System will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement 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:

The school system will, with the assistance of its Title 1, Part A schools, provide assistance to parents of children served by the school system or school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the following actions described below:

Georgia's Academic Content and Achievement Standards

- Provide links on the district and school websites to the GDOE and guides to Georgia Standards of Excellence
- Provide presentations at curriculum nights, federal program meetings and governance council meetings
- Make available printed copies of documents in the school offices
- Provide information at Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Provide trainings throughout the year
- Provide resources for the parent resource center

Georgia and Local Academic Assessments including Alternate Assessments

- Provide links on the district website
- Provide links to district assessment calendars, study guides for assessments and guidance concerning testing environments through the district website
- Provide links to the district's Teaching and Learning tab for student profiles and student achievement
- Provide links to practice test for assessments
- Provide a Parent Guide to Grading and Reporting
- Provide information at Parent-Teacher Conferences
- Make available printed copies of documents in school offices

How to Monitor their Child's Progress

- Provide mid-term reports and report cards on their child's progress. Dates are posted on the district's calendar and the school's websites.
- Conduct Parent-Teacher Conferences. In addition, parents may request a conference at any time.
- Provide opportunities at Parent Nights for parents to learn how to access information in Infinite Campus.
- Provide resources to parents

Requirements of Title 1, Part A

- Provide an overview of the requirements of Title 1, Part A on the district and school websites, in school newsletters: (1) their child's school's participation in Title 1, (2) the requirements of Title 1, (3) their rights to be involved
- Provide an explanation of the requirements at the Schools' Title 1 Annual Parent Meetings, at other meetings scheduled throughout the year, at Open Houses, at Local School Council meetings, in first day packets.

How to Work with Educators

- Provide opportunities for parents to participate in the development of the school's School-Parent Compact and Parent & Family Engagement Plan
- Provide opportunities for parents to provide feedback on the district's Parent Needs Assessment
- Provide Title 1 workshops and meetings with school staff
- Participate in the GaDOE Parent and Family Engagement Conferences

BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF

The **Morgan County Charter School System** 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 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 by:

- Utilize the Georgia Department of Education website by using training materials with staff
- Dedicate faculty meetings to provide training
- Provide Parent Involvement Coordinator Training so that school Title 1 staff may redeliver training to parents.
- Provide training to Parent Involvement Coordinators, district leaders and principals on effective parent engagement strategies
- Provide opportunities for Parent Involvement Coordinators to collaborate to develop activities that can be shared at school staff meetings.
- Every Title 1 school will provide instruction to the school staff in ways to reach out and communicate with parents whose first language is not English by providing faculty in-services, book studies, and related professional development activities.
- The school district will coordinate and integrate parental involvement programs and activities with Head Start, Preschools, and other programs, and conduct other activities such as parent resource centers that encourage and support parents.
- Redelivery of Professional Learning

This policy was adopted by the **Morgan County Charter School System** on **March 12, 2018** and will be in effect for the period of the **2019-2020** school year. The school district will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before October 1, 2018.

(Signature of Authorized Official)

(Date)