



# FAYETTEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

## **School Parent and Family Engagement Policy** **Fayetteville Middle School** **2019-2020 School Year** **Revised 03/26/2020**

In support of strengthening student academic achievement, **Fayetteville Middle School** 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(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).

The **Fayetteville Middle School** 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 improvement 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.

Description of how the school will implement required school parent and family engagement policy components:

Fayetteville Middle School recognizes the importance of partnerships formed with parents, stakeholders, and other community organizations. Our school improvement committee meets several times during the school year to ensure we are meeting the needs of families and providing a variety of family engagement activities during the school year. FMS convenes an Annual Title I meeting at the beginning of each school year. Our parent involvement committee meets at least two times annually to review needs assessments for each school, analyze the parent surveys, make additions and/or changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, discuss and edit the Family-School compact as needed, and to monitor progress in the district’s plans effectiveness. Gathering information from parents/guardians is a very important part of the Family Engagement Plan. Therefore, parents are given the opportunity to complete a parent survey during the school year. These surveys are placed on the school’s website and paper copies can be found in the school office. The surveys give parents the opportunity to make suggestions on how funds should be allocated, trainings needed, goals for our school, and volunteer opportunities they would like to participate. Fayetteville Middle School’s ESL teacher provides additional support to families with limited English proficiency by translating documents into native languages and providing translation services. Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice each year. These conference times allows parents/guardians to discuss student’s academic goals. Teachers meet with parents one-on-one to discuss academic progress and intervention strategies if appropriate

In addition to our Annual Title I Parent Meeting, FMS host at least four events geared to Family/Parent Engagement throughout the school year. A Chrome Book Parent/Student night was scheduled at the beginning of the school year. Chrome Book parent agreements were signed, deposits paid, and Chrome Books assigned to seventh and eighth grade students. In September a PowerSchool informational meeting was held and parents were given login information and presented with information about Power School, and how to download and use the Power School app on smartphones. The Amazing Shake was held in February. Participating students competed in a practice round with Fayetteville High School students, then a preliminary round with guest judges using special guidelines. Students advancing to the final round competed for the Amazing Shake trophy. The students’ families and parents were invited to attend the final round. A TCAP informational meeting will be held prior to the start of TCAP testing.

Information will be offered to help parents understand the importance of TCAP testing and ways they can help their student(s) be successful on state testing.

Other school events are designed to bring the families and community together to show school pride and build family involvement. These activities include but are not limited to, athletic events (football, soccer, basketball, swim, baseball, and softball), Tiger Break Out Day, Open House/Parent orientation, Eighth Grade Night, Beta Club Induction Ceremony, and FMS Drama presentation each spring. Teachers, along with parents, guardians, and extended family members are encouraged to attend these activities.

**NOTE TO SCHOOLS:** The school parent and family engagement policy must include a description of how the school will implement or accomplish each of the following components [Section 1116(b)(1) of ESSA]. This is a sample template, as there is no required format for these descriptions. However, regardless of the format the school chooses to use, a description of each of the following components below must be included to satisfy statutory requirements.

### **JOINTLY DEVELOPED**

Fayetteville Middle School will take the following actions to involve families 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 families, 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.

(Describe/List how families will be involved in the development of the school parent and family engagement policy and how families will be involved in the planning, review, and improvement of parent and family engagement programs.)

- Convene a joint Family and Community Advisory Council Meeting annually with family and community members from both Ralph Askins School and Fayetteville Middle School.
- Family and Community members will be given the opportunity to review the school, parent, and family engagement policy. Feedback and suggestions will be taken into account when reviewing and/or revising the parent and family engagement programs.
- Parents will be given the opportunity to participate in FMS Parent Surveys annually. Information gathered through the surveys will help guide in planning and improvement of the parent and family engagement programs.

## **ANNUAL TITLE I MEETING**

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

Fayetteville Middle School will convene an Annual Title I meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in School-Wide Title I program, immediately following open house/parent orientation night at the beginning of each school year. The purpose of the Annual Title I meeting is to explain the program and its requirements, inform parents of their rights to be involved, encourage student attendance, discuss the Parent-Student-School Compact, and provide an opportunity for parents to serve on the School-Wide Title I committee. Invitations notifying parents of this meeting will be sent home and posted on the school's social media accounts.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Fayetteville Middle School will take the following actions to provide families of participating children the following:

- Timely information about the Title I programs
- 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.
- Information related to the school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities, is sent to the families of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request and, to the extent practicable, in a language the families can understand:

The most current version of the policy will be presented and distributed to all parents at the beginning of each school year and will be written in language that is simple and understandable. A copy of the policy will be on file with the school, the district Federal Programs director, and Fayetteville City Board of Education. The policy can also be found on our school website.

## **SCHOOL-PARENT COMPACT**

Fayetteville Middle School will take the following actions to jointly develop with families of participating children a school-parent compact that outlines how families, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and families will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the state's high standards.

Members of the Parent and Family Engagement committee will meet to review and revise the school-parent compact annually. Revisions will be made and approved by the committee made up of parents, teachers, administrators, supervisors, and local stakeholders. Once revised, copies will be sent home with each student and returned signed to the classroom teacher to ensure all parents are aware of our School-Parent Compact.

## **RESERVATION OF FUNDS**

If applicable, Fayetteville Middle School will take the following actions to involve the families 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:

Fayetteville Middle School will set aside \$\_\_\_\_\_ of the Title I allocation to support family engagement programs and activities. Fayetteville Middle School will host an annual Title I meeting for families to provide suggestions on how the funds will be used at Fayetteville Middle School.

## **COORDINATION OF SERVICES**

Fayetteville 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, including public preschool programs, and conduct other activities, such as parent resource centers, that encourage and support families in more fully participating in the education of their children by:

Fayetteville Middle School will host a Family Care Night annually to provide additional support and resources to families. These resources include but are not limited to the following organizations, businesses or community partners: Fayetteville First Baptist Church children and youth departments; First United Methodist Church; Washington Street Church of Christ; West End Baptist Church; Motlow State Community College; Tennessee College of Applied Science; Martin Methodist College; South Central Human Resource Agency (SCHRA); Clothe Our Kids; Head Start; United States Military Recruiters; Randstad; Hands of Mercy; Lincoln County Family Resource Center; Jr.'s House; Lincoln County Health Department; Crossroads Pregnancy Clinic

## **BUILDING CAPACITY OF SCHOOL STAFF**

Fayetteville Middle School will provide training to educate teachers, specialized instructional support personnel, principals, and other school leaders, and other staff, with the assistance of families, in the value and utility of contributions of families, and in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with families as equal partners, implement and coordinate parent programs, and build ties between families and the school by:

School administrators, system supervisors, and school counselors, will offer workshops/professional development opportunities during the school year to help educate all school faculty and staff on topics that will enhance the school-home connection. Topics offered to teachers in an effort to build a strong bond between school and home will included but not be limited to: Poverty Training; Homeless Training; Partnering with Parents.

Fayetteville Middle School will provide other reasonable support for parent and family engagement activities under Section 1116 as families may request by:

- Transportation
- Childcare
- Snacks/Refreshments
- Various modes communication
- Access to recorded parent engagement activities

## **DISCRETIONARY SCHOOL PARENT AND FAMILY ENGAGEMENT POLICY COMPONENT**

**NOTE TO SCHOOLS:** The school parent and family engagement policy may include additional paragraphs listing and describing other discretionary activities that the school, in meaningful consultation with its families, chooses to undertake to build families' capacity for involvement in the school to support their children's academic achievement, such as the following discretionary activities listed under Section 1116(e) of the ESSA. Please indicate which of the following discretionary (optional) school parent and family engagement policy components the school will implement to improve family-school partnerships:

- Involve families in the development of training for teachers, principals, and other educators to improve the effectiveness of that training.
- Provide necessary literacy training for families from Title I, Part A funds if the school has exhausted all other reasonably available sources of funding for that training.
- Pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with local parent and family engagement activities, including transportation and child care costs, to enable families to participate in school-related meetings and training sessions.
- Train families to enhance the engagement of other families.
- To maximize parent and family engagement and participation in their child's education, arrange school meetings at a variety of times or conduct in-home conferences with teachers or other educators who work directly with participating children and families who are unable to attend conferences at school.
- Adopt and implement model approaches to improving parent and family engagement
- Establish a districtwide parent advisory council to provide advice on all matters related to parent and family engagement in Title I, Part A programs.
- Develop appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith-based organizations, in parent and family engagement activities.

Fayetteville Middle School recognizes the importance of partnerships formed with parents, stakeholders, and other community organizations. Our school improvement committee meets several times during the school year to ensure we are meeting the needs of families and providing a variety of family engagement activities during the school year. FMS convenes an Annual Title I meeting at the beginning of each school year. Our parent involvement committee meets at least two times annually to review needs assessments for each school, analyze the parent surveys, make additions and/or changes to the Parent and Family Engagement Plan, discuss and edit the Family-School compact as needed, and to monitor progress in the district's plans effectiveness. Gathering information from parents/guardians is a very important part of the Family Engagement Plan. Therefore, parents are given the opportunity to complete a parent survey during the school year. These surveys are placed on the school's website and paper copies can be found in the school office. The surveys give parents the opportunity to make suggestions on how funds should be allocated, trainings needed, goals for our school, and volunteer opportunities they would like to participate in.

In addition to our Annual Title I Parent Meeting, FMS host at least four events geared to Family/Parent Engagement throughout the school year. A Chrome Book Parent/Student night was scheduled at the beginning of the school year. Chromebook parent agreements were signed, deposits paid, and Chromebooks assigned to seventh and eighth grade students. In September a PowerSchool informational meeting was held and parents were given login information and presented with information about Power School, and how to download and use the Power School app on smartphones. The Amazing Shake was held in February. Participating students competed in a practice round with Fayetteville High School students, then a preliminary round with guest judges using special guidelines. Students advancing to the final round competed for the Amazing Shake trophy. The students' families and parents were invited to attend the final round. A TCAP informational meeting will be held prior to the start of TCAP testing. Information will be offered to help parents understand the importance of TCAP testing and ways they can help their student(s) be successful on state testing.

Title I funds will be allocated to pay reasonable and necessary expenses associated with parent and family engagement activities. These expenses can include transportation and childcare costs to allow families to participate in school meetings and/or trainings.

Other school events are designed to bring the families and community together to show school pride and build family involvement. These activities include but are not limited to, athletic events (football, soccer, basketball, swim, baseball, and softball), Tiger Break Out Day, Open House/Parent orientation, Eighth Grade Night, Beta Club Induction Ceremony, and FMS Drama presentation each spring. Teachers, along with parents, guardians, and extended family members are encouraged to attend these activities.

Parent-Teacher conferences are held twice each year. These conference times allows parents/guardians to discuss student's academic goals. Teachers meet with parents one-on-one to discuss academic progress and intervention strategies if appropriate.

Fayetteville Middle School recognizes the importance of smooth transitions between elementary school and middle school. Fourth grade students visit and tour FMS each May. During the tour of FMS, students meet administration, faculty, and staff. As special guests, the fourth graders are invited to a special presentation of the school play presented by the FMS Drama Department. As our eighth grade students transition to high school, Fayetteville High School hosts a Freshman Forum each spring to introduce students to administration, faculty, and staff. After spring commencement, eighth grade students are invited back to FHS for an afternoon of fun and games. The time invested by FHS helps to ensure a smooth transition from middle school to high school. Several eighth grade students also participate in Project Lead the Way, a STEM program, and Algebra I at FHS. These two course offerings also help initiate a smooth transition between FMS and FHS. Additionally, FMS eight graders and their families are invited to participate in an eighth grade trip each May. This trip coincides with the end of the school year. The trip usually involves historical landmark stops in Washington D.C. and/or New York City area, reinforcing standards taught in eighth grade social studies.

Fayetteville City School District has an established Parent Involvement Committee comprised of at least three parent representatives from each school, teachers, community members, counselor, EL teacher, school resource officer, and district and school administration that provides advice on matters related to parent and family engagement. The committee meets a minimum of two times annually.

Fayetteville Middle School has developed appropriate roles for community-based organizations and businesses, including faith based organizations. Beginning in the fall of 2020 FMS will host annually a Family Care night. Representatives from the many organizations and businesses will be invited to set up displays in our school and speak with parents and families. This event will help parents and families become more aware of the additional support available to them within our community.