



2017-2018 Parent and Family Engagement

Girard Middle School
Dothan City Board of Education

Mr. Darius McKay, Principal
600 Girard Avenue
Dothan, AL 36303

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| Parent and Family Engagement..... | 2 |

Introduction

All Title I Schoolwide and Targeted Assistance Schools must complete the following diagnostics: the Stakeholder Feedback Diagnostic, the Parent and Family Engagement Diagnostic, the Coordination of Resource/Comprehensive Budget Diagnostic, and EITHER the Title I Targeted Assistance Diagnostic OR the Title I Schoolwide Diagnostic. Parent Survey must be done annually, but it can be done electronically or by paper.

Parent and Family Engagement

Describe how the school will convene an annual meeting to inform parents of the school's participation in Title I and explain Title I requirements, including the 1% set-aside, and the right of parents involved. (Sec. 1116(c)(1))

GMS will hold a Title I Parent Meeting on September 5, 2017 at 6:00 pm. Parents are notified of the meeting through the school marquee, school website, and via school messenger, Remind101, Twitter and Facebook. During the meeting, the principal presents the basic information about Title I and allows for questions and answers regarding the program. Handouts are distributed to attendees noting the amount of Title I funds received and a proposed budget itemizing expenditures.

Describe: 1) How there will be a flexible number and format of parent meetings offered, such as meetings in the morning or evening, and may provide, with funds provided under this part, transportation, child care, or home visits, as such services relate to parental involvement; 2) How parents will be involved in the planning, review and improvement of the Title I Program (Note: State the school's process for how all Title I parents have the opportunity for involvement in decision-making.); and 3) How funds allocated for parent involvement are being used in the school. (Sec. 1116(c)(2)(3))

At the annual Title I meeting, GMS administrative staff will increase parental and family engagement by completing the following actions:

- 1) have a fixed time schedule for parents to be involved after 5:00 pm
- 2) encourage parents to participate in the decision making process by budgeting Title I funds (Parents are asked how they would like to spend funds during the Title I meeting. Suggestions are taken into consideration by the Title I committee.)
- 3) allocate funds based on school needs and parent opinions (e.g. Parental and Family Engagement Resource Handbook, travel expenses for home visits, postage for mailing correspondence to parents, and salary and benefits for the Parental Involvement Specialist)

Describe how the school provides parents of participating children timely information in a uniform format and, to the extent practicable in a language they can understand, about programs under Title I, a description and explanation of the curriculum in use, forms of academic assessments, and achievement expectations used, and, if requested by parents, opportunities for regular meetings to formulate suggestions and participate as appropriate in decisions related to the education of their children. (Sec. 1116(c)(4)(A)(B)(C))

Most teachers at GMS provide information about their classes by way of syllabi. Syllabi include information regarding textbooks, requested supplies, assignments, assignments/projects, technology usage and grading procedures. Additionally, parents receive access to the Code of Conduct along with classroom, hallway, and lunchroom behavioral expectations. Contact information (email addresses, phone numbers, conference times) is given to all parents in print and can also be found on the website. As needed, an EL staff member will be available for interpretation of all information and documents. For immediate translation when an EL teacher is unavailable, GMS uses TransAct's Language Line service to access a live translator. Lesson materials are translated using Google Translate and GoogleDocs. Parent-Teacher conference day is scheduled within the 1st nine weeks grading period to allow parents to discuss concerns with teachers and administrators. Other communication opportunities include Open House, Parent Summit, Remind101 and parent requested conferences.

Describe how parents, the school staff, and students share responsibility for improved student academic achievement for participating students (How the School-Parent Compact is jointly developed with Title I parents; how it is used, reviewed, and updated). (Sec.1116(d))

Parents and families are vital to the success of the school. They have the responsibility to reinforce the learning process at home, to encourage and model safe and respectful behaviors, to motivate their children to be interested in school, and to see that their children attend school regularly. Parents and families should expect the highest level of achievement of which their children are capable, and teacher performances which can elicit this level of achievement. Parents and families are welcomed and encouraged to confer with GMS staff members to find out how their children are progressing. It is our belief that parents and families play a critical role in ensuring a high quality education for their children. The compact is utilized during conferences to remind everyone of their roles and accountability for improved student success. GMS jointly develops with parents a school-parent compact that outlines how parents, the entire school staff, and students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the way in which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership to help children achieve the State's high standards. The compact is reviewed and emphasized at every assembly opportunity to ensure everyone is aware of the compact and its purpose to hold stakeholders accountable. Updates are made based on required format and needs specific to GMS demographics. The 2017 compact was updated after conversations with school staff, the Director of Federal Programs, and parent suggestions from the previous year's Title I meeting.

Describe procedures to allow parents to submit comments of dissatisfaction with the Continuous Improvement Plan. (Sec. 1116(c)(5))

Parents are encouraged to comment and make suggestions about improving the Continuous Improvement Plan (CIP). Any parents with comments and suggestions may contact the principal of GMS at any time.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity and parental and family engagement).

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide materials and training to help parents to work with their children to improve their children's achievement, such as literacy training and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement. (Describe)

- 1) The principal will provide information to parents concerning Title I.
- 2) Teachers will communicate with parents about achievement standards and assessments. Parents also receive information from each classroom teacher describing what it will take to assist with student success, and if needed, timely intervention to correct problems.
- 3) The Parental Involvement Specialist is available to demonstrate how parents can monitor progress through school email and INow Parent Portal.
- 4) Instructional and Literacy Coaches are available to train parents on the use of programs purchased to support and enhance student achievement.

5) GMS will create a Parent Resource Center that will house computers with internet access and a printer. A Parent Resource Handbook will also be created as a resource guide to assist parents and families on how to create accounts for Parent Portal, navigate school and district websites, and direct them to various organizations in the community.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall educate teachers, office personnel, and other school 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. (Describe)

The office staff receives ongoing training on how to assist parents in a consumer-friendly atmosphere. The entire faculty is informed and trained to understand the key role parents play in the student's education and how we should support that relationship. Parents are encouraged to volunteer and sit in on classes to assist teachers and students. The Parental Involvement Specialist attends AAPASS (Alabama Association of Prevention Attendance and Support Services) and conducts a turn-around training to the staff on handling issues of homelessness and attendance and supporting families who are plagued by these issues. A Parent Summit is organized annually which offers classes on various topics.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall to the extent feasible and appropriate, coordinate and integrate parent involvement programs and activities with other federal 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.(Describe)

GMS integrates all available resources into facilitating parent involvement in their child(ren)'s education. The school staff, Parent Involvement Specialist, and district partner with any viable community groups to assist parents with fully participating in their child(ren)'s education. Some community groups include: Calvary Baptist Church, Dothan Community Church, Alfred Saliba Family Services, SpectraCare Health Systems, Bright Key-Wiregrass Foundation, and The Exchange Center.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

2017-2018 Parent and Family Engagement

Girard Middle School

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall ensure that information related to school and parent programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand. (Describe)

All communication to parents, both verbal and written, will be in a language that parents can understand. An EL staff member will see that any necessary translation is provided.

Describe how the school will build capacity for parental involvement including how parents will be encouraged to become equal partners in the education of their children? (See ESSA Sec. 1116, requirements for building capacity in parental involvement.)

To ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement, our school:

Shall provide such other reasonable support for parental involvement activities as parents may request. (Describe)

In an effort to support parents with their child(ren)'s education, GMS will provide assistance to all parents with reasonable requests. In addition, they will be given opportunities to volunteer at the school to support their child(ren) and other students. Parents will be notified of opportunities to participate in school events via school website, Remind101, school messenger, and staff request.

Describe how the school will ensure the provision for participation of parents and family members (including parents and family members who have limited English proficiency, parents and family members with disabilities, and parents and family members of migratory children), including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 in a format and, to the extent practicable, in a language such parents understand. (See ESSA Sec. 1117(f))

The EL teacher, in conjunction with the school administration, is responsible for providing the necessary means to ensure communication with non-English speaking parents. Assistance for communicating with parents with disabilities is available from the local AIDB (Alabama Institute-Deaf & Blind) office. The Girard Middle School Parent Involvement Specialist is available to provide transportation and other assistance that may be required.